

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CANTON, NEW YORK**



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**JUST 303 – INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWS**

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**SPRING 2020**

- A. **TITLE:** Investigative Interviews
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 303
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3  
2 hours lecture per week  
2 hours lab per week
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** None
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course provides students with proven techniques which apply to conducting accusatory and non-accusatory interviews. Students develop skills related to preparing for an investigative interview with an emphasis on a proactive role. These skills include developing an interview strategy, interpreting physical and verbal cues, conducting a cognitive interview, developing admissions and confessions and recognizing a false confession. Course includes the most recent court rulings related to investigative interviews and admissibility of statements into court.
- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
  - a. Pre-requisite(s): 45 credit hours in Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice: Law Enforcement Leadership or Homeland Security or permission of instructor.
  - b. Co-requisite(s): None
  - c. Pre- or co-requisite(s): None

**I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

| <b><u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u></b>                                                                            | <b><u>PSLO</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b><u>GER</u></b> | <b><u>ISLO</u></b>                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| a. Compare an accusatory interview with a non-accusatory interview                                                             | 3. Students will be able to identify, analyze and utilize various techniques used in a criminal investigation                                                                                               |                   | <b>2. Crit. Thinking</b>                         |
| b. Describe and demonstrate appropriate techniques for conducting investigative interviews of witnesses, victims and suspects. | 1. Students will be able to demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills.<br>3. Students will be able to identify, analyze and utilize various techniques used in a criminal investigation |                   | <b>1. Communication<br/>2. Critical Thinking</b> |

|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                               |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| c. Identify physiological responses which can demonstrate either truthful or deceptive answers. | 3. Students will be able to identify, analyze and utilize various techniques used in a criminal investigation | 2. Crit. Thinking |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|

| KEY    | <u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>                                                                     |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ISLO # | ISLO & Subsets                                                                                                                  |
| 1      | <b>Communication Skills</b><br>Oral [O], Written [W]                                                                            |
| 2      | <b>Critical Thinking</b><br><i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry &amp; Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>                    |
| 3      | <b>Foundational Skills</b><br><i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>                             |
| 4      | <b>Social Responsibility</b><br><i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i> |
| 5      | <b>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</b>                                                         |

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

K. **TEXTS:** Wicklander, D.E. & Zulawski, D.E. (2002). *Practical aspects of interview and interrogation* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

L. **REFERENCES:** Various internet sources, US Supreme Court Cases, various appellate courts cases/decisions

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Access to Payson interview suite; multiple computers with access to Genetech video system

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Quizzes
- Written assignments
- Laboratory exercises
- Class participation
- Exams

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

**I. Interview basics**

- A. Definitions
- B. Myths
- C. Building rapport

D. Purposes of interviews

**II.Preparation process and developing a strategy**

- A. Use of evidence
- B. Background of offender
- C. Case investigation
- D. Use of case files
- E. Selecting an interviewer
- F. The interview setting
- G. The act of communicating
- H. Use of an interpreter

**III.Legal aspects of interviews**

- A. Four-part test of admissibility of statement
  - i.4<sup>th</sup> amendment – illegal search?
  - ii.5<sup>th</sup> amendment – custodial interrogation?
  - iii.6<sup>th</sup> amendment – denied counsel?
  - iv.14<sup>th</sup> amendment – due process?
- B. Voluntary statements

**IV.Interpreting verbal and physical behaviors**

- A. Behavioral clusters
- B. Evaluating verbal behavior
- C. Evaluating physical behavior
- D. Attempts by suspect to mask the truth
  - i.Incongruence
  - ii.Emblems
  - iii.Illustrators
  - iv.Adaptors
  - v.Leakage

**V.Non-accusatory interviews**

- A. Complainants and witnesses
- B. Victims
- C. Steps of non-accusatory interview

**VI.Determining truthfulness of subject**

- A. Selective interview technique
- B. Questions of enticement

**VII.Cognitive interviewing**

- A. Definition
- B. Purpose of the cognitive interview

**VIII.Interviewing children**

- A. Non-accusatory interviews
- B. Accusatory interviews

**IX.The denial process**

- A. Types of denials
- B. Causes of denials
  - i.Interrogator's role
  - ii.Suspect's contributions

## **X.Accusing the suspect**

- A. **Timing the accusation**
- B. **Selecting the accusation**
  - i.Introductory statement approach
  - ii.Direct approach
  - iii.Factual approach

## **XI.Interrogation techniques**

- A. Minimizing the seriousness of the offense
- B. Switch the blame away from the suspect
- C. Choice silence
- D. Focusing on the future and past
- E. Guilt
- F. Ego and control
- G. Logical explanations
- H. Props
- I. Lies
- J. Religion
- K. Change perspectives
- L. Sympathy
- M. Mistake
- N. Indifference
- O. Necessity
- P. Overwhelming evidence

## **XII.Recording the interview**

- A. Written record
- B. Audio record
- C. Video record

## **XIII.Denials**

- A. Types of denials
  - i.Emphatic
  - ii.Explanatory
- B. Evaluating denials

## **XIV.Admissions v Confessions**

- A. The initial admission
- B. Developing the admission

## **XV.Recording the admission and confession**

- A. Written record
- B. Audio record
- C. Video record

## **XVI.False confessions**

- A. Definition
- B. Categories of false confessions
  - i.Voluntary
  - ii.Coerced compliant
  - iii.Coerced internalized
- C. Factors contributing to false confessions

- i.Age
- ii.Memory
- iii.Behavioral differences
- iv.Suggestibility
- v.Misinterpretation of language

**XVII.Use of Technology**

- A. Polygraph
- B. Computer voice stress analyzer

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE**

- I.Rapport building lab
- II.Cognitive interview lab
- III.Interrogation techniques and rationalizations
- IV.Interrogation lab
  - a. Introductory statement approach