MASTER SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER – COURSE NAME
JUST 320 – Medico-Legal Investigation of Death

Created by: Liz Brown

Updated by: 

School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice

Department: Criminal Justice

Semester/Year: Spring 2020
A. **TITLE:** Medico-Legal Investigation of Death

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 320

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity)

   - # Credit Hours: 3
   - # Lecture Hours: 3 per week
   - # Lab Hours: per week
   - Other: per week

   **Course Length:** 15 Weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes ☐ No ☒

E. **GER CATEGORY:** None: ☒ Yes: GER
   
   *If course satisfies more than one:* GER

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall ☒ Spring ☐ Fall & Spring ☐

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

   This course provides an in-depth look into the medico-legal aspects of death investigation, including the manners, mechanisms, and causes of death, as well as the post mortem changes. The course also instructs the student on wound interpretation and the method to apply post mortem conditions to criminal investigations to confirm or refute evidence of wrongful deaths.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES:** None ☐ Yes ☒ If yes, list below:

   45 credit hours or permission of the instructor.

   **CO-REQUISITES:** None ☒ Yes ☐ If yes, list below:
I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** *(see key below)*

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>Program Student Learning Outcome [PSLO]</th>
<th>GER [If Applicable]</th>
<th>ISLO &amp; SUBSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Explain manner, mechanism, and cause of death</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-Crit Think ISLO ISLO</td>
<td>CA Subsets Subsets Subsets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Employ forensic methods to determine the time of death</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-Crit Think ISLO ISLO</td>
<td>CA Subsets Subsets Subsets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Illustrate the importance of personal identification in death investigations when dealing with individual and mass deaths</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-Crit Think ISLO ISLO</td>
<td>CA Subsets Subsets Subsets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Classify the various types of injuries</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-Crit Think ISLO ISLO</td>
<td>CA Subsets Subsets Subsets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*BECAUSE OF A ISSUE WITH THE TABLE ALIGNMENT, THE REST OF THE TABLE IS NOT PRESENT.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISLO #</td>
<td>ISLO &amp; Subsets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1 | Communication Skills  
Oral [O], Written [W] |
| 2 | Critical Thinking  
Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS] |
| 3 | Foundational Skills  
Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR] |
| 4 | Social Responsibility  
Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T] |
| 5 | Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills |

*Include program objectives if applicable. Please consult with Program Coordinator*
J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, select one or more of the following categories:

- Classroom/Lab
- Internship
- Clinical Placement
- Practicum
- Service Learning
- Community Service
- Civic Engagement
- Creative Works/Senior Project
- Research
- Entrepreneurship

K. **TEXTS:**


L. **REFERENCES:**

None

M. **EQUIPMENT:** None ☒ Needed:

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

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

Quizzes, exams, papers, assignments/discussion boards

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

1. The History of Forensic Pathology
   1. The coroner system in England
   2. The pathology system in the United States
2. Crime Scene
   1. Blood Stain Pattern Interpretation
   2. Biological evidence
   3. Trace evidence
3. Time of death and changes after death
   1. Anatomical considerations
   2. Chemical considerations
   3. Forensic entomology
4. Exhumation
5. Identification of Human Remains
   1. Diverse techniques
   2. DNA
6. Anthropology
7. Forensic Odontology
A. Bite mark identification
B. Advanced techniques
C. Photographic techniques
D. Digital analysis

VII. Sudden and Unexpected Death from Natural Causes in Adults
VIII. Investigation of Deaths in Childhood
  1. Feticide and Neonaticide
  2. The abused child and adolescent
  3. Differential diagnosis of child abuse

IX. Trauma and Disease
X. Blunt Force Injury
XI. Sharp Force Injury
XII. Injury by Gunfire
  1. Gunshot Wounds
  2. Shotgun Wounds

XIV. Asphyxia

XV. Investigation of Bodies in Water
XVI. Electrical and Lightning Injuries

XVII. Road Traffic Victim
XVIII. Medicolegal Investigation of Mass Disasters
XIX. Investigation of Deaths from Drug Abuse
XX. The Medicolegal Autopsy Report

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE**: None ☐ Yes ☒