

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



COURSE OUTLINE

JUST 406 – Crime Scene Investigation

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SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
November 2015

JUST 406 – Crime Scene Investigation

- A. **TITLE:** Crime Scene Investigation
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 406
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**
Two hours lecture and two hours lab per week.
- H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**
This course emphasizes crime scene processing and investigation including crime scene search principles, photography, descriptive writing, recognition of physical evidence, methods for collection and preservation of evidence, sketching techniques and methods of transportation or submission of evidence for laboratory analysis.
- I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:** Pre-requisite: Forensic Photography (JUST 300), Latent Print and Impressions (JUST 301), and Investigative Interviews (JUST 303), or permission of instructor
- J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**
By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<u>Course Objective</u>	<u>Institutional SLO</u>
a. Evaluate crime scene processing procedures	2. Crit. Thinking
b. Demonstrate crime scene photography, sketching, and search principles	2. Crit. Thinking
c. Assess various forensic science disciplines	2. Crit. Thinking
d. Analyze the evidence recovered from a crime scene and prepare criminal justice related documentation, including evidence submission forms, chain of custody, and narratives	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 4. Inter/Intraper.Skills
e. Explain the postmortem examination and evidence recovery process	2. Crit. Thinking

- K. **TEXTS:** National Forensic Science Technology Center (2015). *Crime Scene Investigation: Guide for Law Enforcement*. NFSTC (free textbook online)

L. **REFERENCES:** None

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Crime Scene Kit

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

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Quizzes
- Exams
- Practical Exercises

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. Introduction to Physical Evidence
 - A. Types of evidence
 - B. Major categories of physical evidence
- II. Crime Scene Search Principles
 - A. First responder at the scene
 - B. Systematic search methods
 - C. Crime scene processing guidelines
- III. Crime Scene Photography
 - A. Objectives of photography
 - B. Traditional vs. digital photography
 - C. Videotaping of crime scenes
- IV. Crime Scene Sketches
 - A. Value of sketches
 - B. Types of sketches
- V. Latent Fingerprint Evidence
 - A. Types of fingerprints and impressions
 - B. Development of latent prints
 - C. Techniques for recovery at the scene
 - D. Submission of latent prints to the crime laboratory
- VI. Trace Evidence
 - A. Types of trace evidence
 1. Hair
 2. Fiber
 3. Glass
 4. Paint
 5. Soil
 6. Arson accelerants
- VII. Biological Fluid Stain Evidence: Blood and Semen
 - A. Nature of bloodstain evidence
 - B. Crime scene documentation of blood
 - C. DNA analysis
 - D. Blood spatter interpretation
- VIII. Firearms Evidence
 - A. Types of firearm evidence
 - B. Recovery of fired ammunition components
 - C. Gunshot residue (GSR)
- IX. Impression Evidence
 - A. Types of impression evidence
 - B. Collection of impression evidence
 - C. Toolmark evidence collection
 - D. Fracture evidence collection

- X. Drug and Alcohol Evidence
 - A. Collection of drug and alcohol evidence
- XI. Document Evidence
 - A. Collection of document evidence
- XII. Vehicle Scene Investigations
 - A. General automobile search
 - B. Photographs at the accident scene
- XIII. Sexual Assault Investigations
 - A. Role of physical evidence in sexual assault investigations
 - B. Collection of evidence
 - C. Packaging of evidence
- XIV. Homicide Crime Scene Investigations
 - A. Homicide Investigation Response Team
 - B. At the Homicide Scene
 - C. Postmortem examination
 - D. Wrap-up conference
- XV. Crime Scene Reconstruction
 - A. Process of crime scene reconstruction
- XVI. Crime Scene Report Writing

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE:

- I. Narrative
- II. Crime Scene Sketch
- III. Wound Diagram
- IV. Photography – Evidence
- V. Fingerprints and Footwear
- VI. Photography – Vehicle
- VII. Questioned Documents and Firearms
- VIII. Biological
- IX. Blood Spatter
- X. Trace and Digital