

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



MASTER SYLLABUS

JUST 424 – COLD CASE INVESTIGATION

**Created by: Elizabeth Brown
Updated by: Susan E. Buckley**

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, INTELLIGENCE AND CYBERSECURITY
SPRING 2020**

- A. **TITLE:** Cold Case Investigation
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 424
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** None
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring
- G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course discusses the techniques used to analyze and investigate a cold case. This course highlights the evaluation of the cold case file using available resources, including electronic databases, interview techniques, autopsy findings, media inquiries, and forensic science disciplines.
- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
 Prerequisite: 45 completed credit hours or permission of instructor.
 Co-requisite: None
 Pre- or co-requisite(s): None
- I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

| <i>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</i> | <i>Program Student Learning Outcome [PSLO]</i> | <i><u>GER</u> [If Applicable]</i> | <i>ISLO</i> |
|--|---|---|-----------------|
| Evaluate cold case investigation procedures | PLO 2 – Analyze and evaluate theory and practice in criminological/criminal justice contexts. | | 2-Crit Think |
| Assess government, state and local databases | PLO 2 – Analyze and evaluate theory and practice in criminological/criminal justice contexts. | | 2-Crit Think |
| Analyze the advances in forensic science disciplines | PLO 2 – Analyze and evaluate theory and practice in criminological/criminal justice contexts. | | 2-Crit Think |
| Explain the postmortem results | PLO 2 – Analyze and evaluate theory and practice in criminological/criminal justice contexts | | 2-Crit Think |

| KEY | <u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u> |
|---------------|--|
| ISLO # | ISLO & Subsets |
| 1 | Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W] |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i> |
| 3 | Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i> |
| 4 | Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i> |
| 5 | Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills |

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes No

K. **TEXTS:**

Walton, R. H. (2017). *Cold Case Homicides: Practical Investigative Techniques* (2nd edition). Taylor & Francis. (e-book free through Southworth library)

McGough, M. (2019). *The Lazarus Files: A Cold Case Investigation*. Henry Holt and Company.

L. **REFERENCES:**

Subscription to Netflix
Various internet sources

M. **EQUIPMENT:** None

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

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

- Quizzes
- Exams
- Discussion Boards
- Case studies

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I.The Cold Case Problem
- II.Case File Review
- III.Learning the Case
- IV.Investigation
- V.Long-Term Missing & No Body Cases
- VI.Prosecution of Cold Cases
- VII.Databases
- VIII.FBI CJIS & NCIC
- IX.Interviewing Senior Citizens
- X.Death Certificate, Obituary, and Medical Examiner/Coroner
- XI.Cold Case Investigation Units
- XII.The Media in Cold Cases
- XIII.Forensic Science Techniques & Disciplines
 - a. Fingerprints
 - b. Serology & DNA
 - c. Trace

- d. Ballistics
 - e. Anthropology
 - f. Odontology
 - g. Questioned Documents
 - h. Blood Spatter Analysis
- XIV. Anthropology, Archeology & Remains
XV. Forensic Art
XVI. Geographic Profiling

Q. LAB NA