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

MASTER SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER – COURSE NAME
JUST450 – Forensic Evidence on Trial

CIP Code: 43.0114
For assistance determining CIP Code, please refer to this webpage
https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/browse.aspx?y=55
or reach out to Sarah Todd at todds@canton.edu

Created by: Kelly R.P. Ficner

Updated by: Kelly R.P. Ficner

School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice

Department: Criminal Justice

Semester/Year: Fall 2023

A. **TITLE:** Forensic evidence on trial

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST450

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 students with an understanding of the legal mechanisms through which forensic evidence moves from crime scene to trial. Students will learn the preparation for, and the presentation at trial that comes along with forensic evidence. Students will learn to create demonstrative evidence to accompany forensic evidence. Students will prepare themselves for the legal argument against the introduction of expert witness testimony. Students will work to develop confidence in their ability to present evidence at trial.

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

ENGL101 and Junior status

    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:

Course Student Learning Outcome *[SLO]*	*Program Student Learning Outcome [PSLO]*	*GER* *[If Applicable]*	*ISLO & SUBSETS*

Explain the major types of evidence	Students will be able to apply the scientific methods to analyze and compare physical evidence to determine its properties and possible origin.	n/a	5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	Subsets Subsets Subsets Subsets
Explain the need for and creation of demonstrative evidence.	Students will be able to apply the scientific methods to analyze and compare physical evidence to determine its properties and possible origin	n/a	5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	Subsets Subsets Subsets Subsets
Explain the basic forensic examination process, and ACE-V methodology.	Students will be able to demonstrate written and verbal communication skills.	n/a	5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	Subsets O Subsets Subsets
Explain the legal mechanism for admitting forensic evidence at trial and the agruments against it.	Students will be able to apply the scientific methods to analyze and compare physical evidence to determine its properties and possible origin	n/a	5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	Subsets Subsets Subsets Subsets
Properly present expert witness testimony in which forensic evidence is the topic.	Students will be able to demonstrate written and verbal communication skills.	n/a	5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	Subsets O Subsets Subsets
			ISLO ISLO ISLO	Subsets Subsets Subsets Subsets
			ISLO ISLO ISLO	Subsets Subsets Subsets Subsets
			ISLO ISLO ISLO	Subsets Subsets Subsets Subsets
			ISLO ISLO ISLO	Subsets Subsets Subsets Subsets
			ISLO ISLO ISLO	Subsets Subsets Subsets Subsets

KEY	**Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]**
ISLO #	**ISLO & Subsets**
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   ☐ Civic Engagement
☐ Internship   ☐ Creative Works/Senior Project
☐ Clinical Placement   ☐ Research
☐ Practicum   ☐ Entrepreneurship
☐ Service Learning   (program, class, project)
☐ Community Service

K. TEXTS:

Kiely, T. F. (2005). Forensic evidence: Science and the criminal law, second edition (2nd ed.). CRC Press.

L. REFERENCES:

As assigned

M. EQUIPMENT: **None** ☒ **Needed:**

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Papers, mock testimony presentations, evidence preperation, final presentation

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Science and the law
   A. Forensic science

    B. Scientific methodology
    C. Evidence allowed

II. Evidence, what is it?
    A. History
    B. How do we get to trial (examination)
    B. Probative value
    C. Numbers (probability)
    D. Class vs. Individual characteristics
    E. Types of evidence or examinations (trace, biology, ballistics, impressions)

III. Impression Evidence
    A. Fingerprints
    B. Footwear and tire tracks
    C. Tool marks

IV. Trace evidence
    A. Hair
    B. Soil
    C. Paint
    D. Fibers

V. Biology
    A. DNA
    B. Blood stain pattern interpretation

VI. Firearms and "Others"
    A. Why it isn't called ballistics
    B. Firearms
    C. Other experts

VII. Tell them what they need to know
    A. Presentation of evidence and demonstrative evidence

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