

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



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**JUST 300-FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Created by:**

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

A. **TITLE:** Forensic Photography

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 300

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** no

E. **GER CATEGORY:** no

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring/Fall

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course provides an introduction to basic techniques, equipment, material and other aspects of crime scene photographs including theory and practice of photographic image formation and recordings. The course utilizes “hands-on” instruction with an emphasis on crime scene photography, evidence photography, and surveillance photography.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**

a. Pre-requisite(s): 45 Credit hours in Criminal Investigation, CJ: Law Enforcement Leadership, Homeland Security or permission of instructor.

b. Co-requisite(s):

c. Pre- or co-requisite(s):

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. Describe and discuss the history of police photography and legal considerations in the use of digital photography	(1359) 4-students will be able to demonstrate the procedure for processing a crime scene and planning an investigation		2. Crit. Thinking
b. Describe and discuss the types of camera equipment used for forensic photography while comparing film and digital mediums. c. Define and assess the evidentiary value of items found at a crime scene when photographing a crime scene.	(1359) 3-students will be able to identify, analyze and utilize various techniques used in a criminal investigation (1359) 4-students will be able demonstrate the procedure for processing a crime scene and planning a criminal investigation		1. Communication  5. Industry, Professional, discipline-specific knowledge and skills
d. Prepare administrative			5. Industry, Professional, discipline-specific knowledge and skills

documents related to forensic photography.	(1359) 1-students will be able to demonstrate written and verbal communication		
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KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	<b>Communication Skills</b> Oral [O], Written [W]
2	<b>Critical Thinking</b> <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry &amp; Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	<b>Foundational Skills</b> <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	<b>Social Responsibility</b> <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  No

K. **TEXTS:** Duncan, C. D. (2010). *Advanced crime scene photography*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.

L. **REFERENCES:** N/A

M. **EQUIPMENT:**

All students are required to purchase their own camera. The recommended camera is the Canon EOS Rebel T5 or newer (Students may purchase a higher-level camera if they wish.) Substitutions must be cleared with the instructor prior to the class starting via email at [colbertl@canton.edu](mailto:colbertl@canton.edu)

- Two 8.0+ GB digital media [SD] cards.
- Flashlight – (3 C cell or 2 D cell minimum recommended)

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

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

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Photo submission and review
- Administrative document review

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. Introduction

- a. Review of basic photographic concepts
- b. Creating a lasting impression
- c. Thinking outside the box
- d. Advance crime scene photography

II. Photography Equipment and Options

- a. Cameras
- b. Digital versus film
- c. Lenses
- d. Lens filters and attachments
- e. Tripods and other camera supports
- f. Identification markers
- g. Electronic and strobe flashes
- h. Cable releases
- i. Lens attachments
- j. Hard cases, soft cases and backpacks

III. Crime Scene Photography

- a. Preparation and general photography
- b. Capturing the impossible shot
- c. Bracketing
- d. Overall crime scene photography
- e. Panoramic view compositions
- f. Mid-range or relationship photography
- g. Depth of field
- h. Adding artistic flair
- i. Close-up photography
- j. Close-focused images recorded at the crime scene
- k. Close-up images captured after leaving the crime scene

IV. Examination Quality Photographs

- a. Scales
- b. Fingerprint photography
- c. Footwear and tire impression photography
  - i. One dimensional impressions
  - ii. Two dimensional impressions
- d. Digital imaging and examination quality photographs

- V. Nighttime and low-light photography
  - a. Attributes of light
  - b. Reciprocity failure
  - c. Working low-light and nighttime crime scenes
  
- VI. Flash Photography
  - a. Guide numbers
  - b. Flash operation
    - i. Built-in or pop-up flash
    - ii. Off the camera electronic flash photography
    - iii. Benefits of flash photography
  - c. Using electronic flash in low-light conditions
    - i. Directionality of light from electronic flashes
  
- VII. Painting with light
  - a. Types of lighting
    - i. Electronic flashes
    - ii. Flashlights
    - iii. Small flashlights for small objects
    - iv. Alternate light sources
  
- VIII. Bloodstain photography
  - a. Complete scene documentation
  - b. Photographing bloodstains on different surfaces
  - c. Electronic flash and bloodstain evidence
  - d. Glass and blood
  - e. The magically disappearing bloodstain
  - f. Close-focusing
  - g. Luminol and other chemiluminescent blood reagents
    - i. Bloodstains and colored substratum
  
- IX. Photographing shooting incidents
  - a. Documenting the scene
  - b. Rods, strings and lasers
    - i. Trajectory rods
    - ii. Strings
    - iii. Lasers
    - iv. Daytime laser reconstruction

- X. Ultraviolet and Infrared Photography
  - a. Ultraviolet photography
  - b. Forgery and document alterations
  - c. Fibers and other trace evidence
  - d. Gunpowder residue
  - e. Semen, blood, and other bodily fluids
  - f. Bruises and bite marks
  - g. Fingerprint enhancements
  - h. Osseous matter
  - i. Infrared photography
  - j. Forgery and document alterations
  - k. Tattoo documentation
  - l. Bloodstain documentation
  - m. Gunshot residue

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:**  
N/A