

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



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:

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

*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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom/Lab | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Engagement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internship | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Works/Senior Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practicum | <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning | (program, class, project) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | |

K. **TEXTS:**

Spitz, W. U. (2006). Medicolegal investigation of death: Guidelines for the application of pathology to crime investigation. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas Publisher. [Free EBSCO E-Book]

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
4. Identification of Human Remains
1. Diverse techniques
2. DNA
5. Anthropology
6. 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