

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



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**JUST 339 – TRUE CRIME INVESTIGATION**

**Prepared by: Michelle L. Currier**

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT  
DECEMBER 2019**

- A. **TITLE:** True Crime Investigation
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 339
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 credits/3 contact hours per week for 15 weeks.
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** n/a
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
 This course provides an in-depth examination of a real-world crime and its treatment throughout the stages of the justice process. Students examine the case from a variety of perspectives, analyzing the facts and behaviors of the key actors responsible for the commission or disposition of the crime. Special attention is given to the victim and perpetrator’s characteristics and behaviors, the crime scene, investigative procedures, the courtroom process and the eventual case outcome.

- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
  - a. Pre-requisite(s): 45 credit hours, or permission of the instructor.

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<b><u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u></b>	<b><u>PSLO (LEL)</u></b>	<b><u>GER</u></b>	<b><u>ISLO</u></b>
a. Identify relevant issues in a criminal case from victim, perpetrator, law enforcement and judicial/courts’ perspectives.	PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles		2. Critical Thinking [IA]
b. Discuss the potential impact of social status, history, politics and/or ethics on the investigation and disposition of criminal cases.	PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles		2. Critical Thinking [IA]
c. Analyze and synthesize data relating to perpetrators and/or criminal justice system practitioners to draw conclusions about crime	PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles		2. Critical Thinking [IA]

and criminal behavior(s).			
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KEY	<b>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</b>
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 X

K. **TEXTS:**

Free materials from the open web or from library resources; AND

Selected Readings (will vary depending on true-crime case content covered).

**Examples Include:**

Griesbach, M. (2016). *Indefensible: The missing truth about Steven Avery, Teresa Halbach, and Making a Murderer*. New York, NY: Kensington Books.

Johnson, T. H. (2016). *The People vs. OJ Simpson*. Charleston, SC: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

Selected Videos (will vary depending on true-crime case content covered).

**Examples Include:**

Ricciardi, L., & Demos, M. (Directors). (2015). *Making a Murderer [Video file]*. Retrieved from Netflix.com

Alexander, S., & Karaszewski, L. (Directors). (2016). *American crime story: The People v. O.J. Simpson [Motion picture on Television Film]*. U.S.: FX.

L. **REFERENCES:** n/a

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Standard technology-enhanced classroom; or Bb LMS

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

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

Assignments and/or Discussions; Exams/Quizzes; Research Paper

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

- I. The Perpetrator and the Crime – an Introduction
  - A. History and Relevant Background of the “Perpetrator”
  - B. The Victim(s) and the Crime(s)
- II. The Investigation
  - A. Investigative Procedures
    - i. Interrogations
    - ii. Crime Scene
    - iii. Evidence Collection and Processing
    - iv. Ethical Issues
- III. The Courtroom Process
  - A. Case Presentation
  - B. Closing Arguments
  - C. Jury Deliberation
- IV. The Outcome
  - A. Verdict
  - B. Sentencing
  - C. The Personal and Public Aftermath

**Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: n/a**