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

COURSE OUTLINE

JUST 410 - CLANDESTINE GRAVES

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SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
APRIL 2015

JUST 410 – CLANDESTINE GRAVES

A. **TITLE:** Clandestine Graves

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 410

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

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

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** 2 hours lecture and two hours lab each day for three weeks

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

This course presents students with the theories and practices of locating clandestine graves. Lectures address grave assessments, the use of experts, evidence recognition and preservation, and case studies. Labs include grave location, excavation, and recovery techniques.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:** Pre-requisite: 45 credit hours completed in Criminal Investigation, Criminal Justice: Law Enforcement Leadership, or Homeland Security or permission of the instructor.

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**
By the end of the semester, the student will be able to:

Course Objective	***Institutional SLO***
a. Explain the differences between clandestine graves and scattered human remains sites	2. Crit. Thinking
b. Illustrate methods to locate clandestine graves in the field	2. Crit. Thinking
c. Apply grave excavation and recovery techniques	2. Crit. Thinking 4. Inter/Intraper.Skills
d. Infer the different types of evidence	2. Crit. Thinking
e. Demonstrate evidence preservation techniques	1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking
f. Interpret the grave and evidence for investigative leads	2. Crit. Thinking

K. **TEXT:**

Dupras, T.L., Schultz, J.J., Wheeler, S.M. & Willams, L.J. (2011). *Forensic recovery of human remains: Archeological approaches* (2nd ed.). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

L. REFERENCES:

A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Detection of Clandestine Graves

Davenport, G.C., France, D.L., Griffin, T.J., Swanburg, J.G., Lindemann, J.W., Tranunell, V., Armbrust, C.T., Kondrateiff, B, Nelson, A., Castellano, K., & Hopkins, D. (1992). A multidisciplinary approach to the detection of clandestine Graves. *Journal of Forensic Sciences, 37*(6), 1445-1458.

M. EQUIPMENT: Digging Equipment and laboratory skeletons

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

- Quizzes
- Practical exercises
- Examination

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Introduction to Clandestine Graves
   a. Definitions of forensic archaeology
   b. Definitions of forensic anthropology

II. Types of Clandestine Graves
   a. Graves
   b. Scatter human remains
   c. Other types of sites

III. Locating a Grave Site
   a. Elements of locating graves
   b. Personnel and equipment
   c. Process used for grave location

IV. Use of Experts
   a. Which experts are needed and why
   b. Who examines the recovered evidence

V. Assessing a Grave Site
   a. Determine the nature of a gravesite
   b. Logistics
   c. Health and safety
   d. Research state
   e. Site location stage
   f. Recovery stage

VI. Delineating a Grave Site
   a. Grave size and dimensions
   b. Scene Control
   c. Organization
   d. Scene marking techniques

VII. Excavation and Recovery
   a. Site confirmation techniques
   b. Site excavation
   c. Evidence processing techniques
   d. Sequence of events during clandestine burial
   e. Surface scatters

VIII. Recognition of Physical Evidence
   a. Evidence categories
   b. Animal versus human remains
   c. Personal artifacts
   d. Weapons
   e. Tool marks
   f. Other associative evidence

IX. Variations in Preservation
   a. Environmental
   b. Taphonomy
   c. Reconstruction
   d. Scene alterations

X. Photography and Recording
   a. Scene photography
   b. 3-D evidence

XI. Evidence Collection
   a. Fragile evidence
   b. Evidence protection
   c. Site searching

XII. Preservation
   a. Decomposition of evidence
   b. Prevention of evidence erosion

XIII. Interpretation of grave site and evidence
   a. Conclusions

XIV. Case Studies
   a. Archeology techniques
   b. Anthropology techniques
   c. Historical case studies

Q. <u>LABORATORY OUTLINE</u>:

I. Human Osteology
II. Burial Prospection
III. Burial Excavation
IV. Laboratory Analysis