

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Course Number: CRJ-260	Class/Lect. 1-lours: 3	Lab Flours: 0	Credits: 3	Dept.: <u>Criminal Justice</u>
Course Title: <u>Criminal Justice Capstone</u>			Semester: Fall	Year: <u>2016</u>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Criminal Justice Capstone **3 credits.**

This capstone is designed to combine the concepts, theories, skills and practices developed in the Criminal Justice degree program and apply them in a practical situation. Students will participate in mock criminal investigations and develop a group deliverable, in the form of a case file and charging decision/recommendation. Students will be required to keep a detailed field notebook, make written investigation progress reports and show regular progress towards creation of their case file. Class time will be spent with groups working in the mock crime scene. Students will conduct forensic analysis of collected evidence, process lab results and review responses to information requests. Students will conduct witness and suspect interviews and use inductive reasoning to develop an investigative theory. Students will research and discuss possible charging decisions/recommendations. **Prerequisite: Student must be a candidate for graduation or permission of instructor. Offered: Fall and Spring semesters.**

**Prerequisites:**

- o **CRJ-122** Criminal Procedures II
- o **CRJ-130** Evidence
- o **CRJ-200** Law I
- o **CRJ-210** Criminal Investigations
- o **ENG-102** English Composition II
- o **ENG-104** Technical Report Writing

○ Student must be a candidate for graduation or permission of instructor.

### OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

Course Objectives	Competencies
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop an understanding of the practical application of knowledge and skills learned through courses in familiar Procedure.</li> <li>2. Develop an understanding of the practical application of knowledge and skills learned through courses in Criminal Law.</li> <li>3. Develop an understanding of the practical application of knowledge and skills learned through courses in Criminal Investigations.</li> <li>4. Further develop and apply criminal justice specific writing skills to criminal justice specific activities.</li> <li>5. Work collaboratively with other students in both independent and team activities.</li> <li>6. Engage in higher level and critical thinking dialogue with fellow students around issues of procedure, management, evidence evaluation, and legal processes.</li> <li>7. Develop and apply basic legal research skills.</li> <li>8. Produce a collaborative submission showing in-depth thought and analysis of a practical crime scenario.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students will be expected to show proficiency in following proper procedures in a mock criminal investigation; including crime scene processing, evidence analysis, standard paperwork, and witness and suspect interviews.</li> <li>2. Students will be expected to show proficiency in the research and application of law by making and justifying a charging decision based on the facts and evidence collected from the mock investigation.</li> <li>3. Students will be expected to work efficiently and effectively with other members of their investigative team; making group decisions and managing each other through various tasks of responsibility.</li> <li>4. Students will be expected to show an understanding of the need for strong personal documentation of an investigation and the demand for articulate written documentation for items of court record.</li> <li>5. Students will be expected to apply inductive, and later deductive, reasoning and critical thinking within their groups and individually to evaluate avenues of fruitful investigation.</li> <li>6. Students will be expected to show an ability to work with limited supervision and basic direction to meet strict deadlines.</li> <li>7. Students will be expected to culminate their experience in a substantial group effort to create a trial ready case file; consisting of an incident report and narrative, laboratory results, witness and suspect interview notes, statements and confessions, as well as a well-developed and supported charging decision/recommendation.</li> </ol>