COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: LAW 2452: Interviewing Techniques  
CREDITS: 3 (1 Lec / 2 Lab)  
PREREQUISITES: LAW 1520 – Minnesota Criminal & Traffic Statutes, LAW 1595 – Criminal and Civil Procedure, and LAW 1544 - Report Writing  

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:  
Interviewing Techniques covers proper procedures for interviewing and interrogation of victims, witnesses, and suspects. This course explores interviewing burglary victims, robbery victims, sexual assault victims, and child victims as well as victims of other types of crime. Taking statements from victims, witnesses, and suspects will be included. Written reports will be expected on all projects.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:  
1. Interviews  
   A. Definitions  
   B. Victims’, witnesses’, and suspects’ rights  
   C. Population statistics  
   D. Perception  
   E. Listening skills  
   F. Types of people  
   G. Types of witnesses  
      1. Memory retention  
      2. Line up identifications  
   H. Factors when interviewing children  
   I. Physical influence factors  
   J. Influences on witnesses observations or sources of errors  
      1. Physical ability or disability  
      2. Emotional factors  
      3. Previous experience and education  
      4. Prejudice and bias  
   K. Interviewing techniques  
      1. Attributes of a successful interviewer  
         a. Discretion  
         b. Perseverance: more than one attempt  
         c. Insight  
         d. Ability/intelligence  
         e. Suitable speech  
         f. Persuasiveness
2. Timing
3. Setting
4. Interview process of victims/witnesses of various crimes
   a. Build rapport
   b. Acquaint subject with surroundings
   c. Show witness respect
   d. Motivate subject
   e. Get the facts
   f. Miranda Warning if appropriate - (suspects)
   g. Take notes
   h. Allow subject to speak without interruptions
   i. Avoid criticism or sarcasm
   j. Avoid yes/no questions
   k. Do not ask leading questions
   l. Avoid rapid fire questions
   m. Use the long pause
5. Taking statements from victims, witnesses, suspects
   a. Written statements
   b. Audio or video taped statements
   c. Miranda Warning if appropriate
   d. Let them talk first
   e. Get details
   f. Chronological order
2. Interrogation of suspects
   A. Definition
   B. Case law and Amendments pertaining to interrogation
   C. Suspects
   D. Miranda Warning
   E. Various interrogation techniques
   F. Symptoms of lying
   G. Taking statements
      1. Written statements
      2. Audio or video taped statements
      3. Include Miranda Warning on tape
      4. Get details
      5. Chronological order
3. Manage a Sexual Assault situation

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
1. Students will define the term Interrogation and demonstrate an understanding of constitutional and statutory requirements through discussion and practical application.
2. Students will define the term Interview and demonstrate an understanding of proper techniques and desired outcomes in a variety of situations through discussion and practical application.
3. Students will demonstrate through discussion and practical application an understanding of nonverbal and verbal communication and its application in interviewing and conflict de-escalation.
4. Students will demonstrate through discussion and practical application an understanding of trauma and how it effects witness and victim memory.
5. Students will define and discuss identification techniques including various types of line ups.
6. Students will demonstrate through discussion an understanding of cultural diversity and its impact on the interview process.
7. Students will conduct and manage a sexual assault interview.
8. Students will demonstrate through discussion an understanding of abnormal psychology and how it affects the interview process.

MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:
N/A

HCC COMPETENCIES MET:
Working Productively and Cooperatively
Communicating Clearly and Effectively
Thinking Creatively and Critically
Social/Civic Responsibility

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
Examination of your performance is directly related to the performance objectives. Each student is expected to prepare for class, attend lectures, participate in class activities, participate and implement input into class discussions, complete examinations and hand in outside assignments when due. Attendance is crucial in this class.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
We cannot plan, and subsequently establish training for every conceivable eventuality or situation which an officer will confront. However, we intend to increase awareness of risks and show various tactics at a basic entry level with the understanding that procedures may change from department to department.

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: February 8, 2018
AASC APPROVAL DATE: February 21, 2018
REVIEW DATE: February 2023