

Common Course Outline
CRJU 110
Criminal Investigation
3 semester hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

CRJU110 – 3 Credits – Criminal Investigation introduces students to the fundamental principles and procedures employed in the investigation of various types of crimes. Topics include physical evidence, information sources, interviews and interrogations, eyewitness identifications and testimony, homicide investigations, burglaries, robberies, sex crime investigations, specialized investigations, and the management of criminal investigations.

Prerequisites: ENGL 052 or ESOL 052 and RDNG 052 or ESOL 054

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. summarize the historical perspectives of criminal investigation;
2. identify the basic scientific means utilized in solving crime;
3. describe the methods for collecting evidence at crime scenes;
4. outline the proper procedures for conducting systematic searches of crime scenes;
5. describe the basic processes in crime scene reconstruction;
6. relate the basic procedural steps common in most investigations;
7. explain the processes and objectives of interviewing and interrogation;
8. understand the importance of detailed note-taking and report writing;
9. describe the legalities and procedures in arresting suspects;
10. summarize the legalities and procedures for searching crime scenes, vehicles, and persons;
11. analyze the processes used in undercover investigations including drug abuse and vice operations;
12. explain the processes in gathering intelligence information related to terrorism and other types of crimes; and
13. evaluate the trial process and the investigator as a witness.

Major Topics

- I. Introduction to criminal investigation
 - A. Evolution
 - B. Legal aspects of investigation
- II. The investigative process and the crime scene
 - A. Organization of the crime scene investigation
 - B. Types of crime scenes
 - C. Search procedures and documentation
 - D. Role of the investigator during the trial process
- III. Physical evidence
 - A. Common types, identification and comparison
 - B. Class vs. individualization
 - C. Collection, preserving, packaging

- IV. Interviewing and interrogation
 - A. Objectives and techniques for interviewing and interrogation
 - B. Time, place, and setting for interviewing
 - C. Understanding witnesses
- V. Field notes and reporting
 - A. Importance of note-taking
 - B. Incident reports
- VI. Follow-up Investigation
 - A. Special techniques and resources
 - B. Intelligence gathering, analytical and investigative tools
- VII. Injury and death investigations
 - A. Establishing cause, types and manner of death
 - B. Post-mortem observations
 - C. Wound identification
- VIII. Sex-related offenses
 - A. Classification of sex offenses
 - B. Rape and sex offense investigation including physical evidence
- IX. Crimes against children
 - A. Assaults against children
 - B. Child abuse and molestation
 - C. Sudden infant death syndrome
 - D. Infant abduction
- X. Robbery Investigations
 - A. Elements of the crime
 - B. Typology of robberies
 - C. Follow-up investigative procedures
- XI. Burglary/Theft Investigations
 - A. Elements of the crimes
 - B. Follow-up investigative procedures
 - C. Vehicle thefts
- XII. Other types of crimes
 - A. Drug abuse
 - B. Arson and Explosion investigation
 - C. Computer crimes
 - D. Terrorism

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- Written assignments: A minimum of one case study
- A minimum of two examinations
- A minimum of five quizzes

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine additional writing assignments.

Other Course Information

CRJU110 is a Criminal Justice core course.