

Common Course Outline

CRJU 118

Computer-Related Crime: Its Investigation and Prosecution

3 semester hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Computer-Related Crime

Explores the computer's capability to store, centralize, and retrieve vast amounts of information; provides instruction in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of criminal abuses of this modern technology.

Prerequisites: ENGL 052 and RDNG 052 or ESOL 052

Overall Course Objectives

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

- identify vulnerabilities of computers and computer users to criminal risk
- analyze special needs for protection of computer networks from compromise
- describe the factors which encourage computer fraud
- prioritize methods to combat computer fraud and financial loss
- identify techniques used by computer thieves to steal personal ID's
- develop security plans for physical and digital protection of information
- describe the proper use of Firewalls and Passwords
- identify the *modus operandi* of computerized sexual predators
- explain the importance of understanding computer risks to persons and property

Major Topics

- I. Growth of computer use in the United States
 - A. Modern business reliance upon computers
 - B. Personal use of computers for personal finance
 - C. Educational and recreational use of computers
- II. International business and geopolitical employment of computers
 - A. The growth of the Internet and World Wide Web
 - B. Multicultural and cross-cultural influences
- III. Rapid dissemination of information and risks of crime
 - A. Need for protective action by individuals
 - B. Public law enforcement and the methods of response
 - C. International and jurisdictional problems
- IV. Types of computer crimes and their detection
 - A. Theft of information and business fraud
 - B. Employee access to classified and controlled information
 - C. National security issues and the threat of espionage
 - D. Child molestation and other sexual offenses
 - E. Obscenity, defamation and "hate" crimes

- V. Defenses against computer crime
 - A. Personal responsibilities
 - B. Corporate responsibilities
 - C. The role of local and national law enforcement

Course Requirements

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

- Written assignments
- Tests/Quizzes
- Attendance and participation

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

Other Course Information

This course is a Criminal Justice elective. It is taught in the classroom using a variety of instructional techniques which are intended to meet the varied learning styles of our diverse student population. These strategies rely on positive interdependence in a cooperative learning environment. Individual accountability is a key outcome of these strategies. They include:

- Guided teaching and lecture
- Large group discussion
- Small group interaction and activities
- Case studies
- Read/watch and discuss

Credit by examination is available.