

Common Course Outline

CRJU 153

Private Investigation

3 semester hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

CRJU 153 – 3 credits - Private Investigation introduces students to the field of private investigation and its relationship to the criminal justice system. Emphasis is placed upon local and national licensing regulations, scope of operations, legal considerations, civil law, and professional ethics. Topic areas include public records access, interview techniques, eavesdropping countermeasures, surveillance techniques, video applications, still photography, report writing, and court appearances.

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

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Explain the Maryland State Police Private Detective licensing requirements;
2. Identify the sources of employment for the Private Investigator and Investigative agency;
3. Distinguish between civil and criminal law and procedure;
4. Analyze lawful and ethical business practices;
5. Identify lawful sources of public and private information;
6. Demonstrate a lawful and ethical video, foot, fixed and mobile surveillances;
7. Describe the collection and recording of evidence for court presentation;
8. Properly interview witnesses and suspects;
9. Assemble investigative field notes and write a concise investigative report; and
10. Prepare evidence that can be used in a court or administrative hearing.

Major Topics

- I. Maryland Private Detective Law
- II. Public records research
- III. Still and video photography
- IV. Surveillance
- V. Interview and interrogation
- VI. Criminal law and procedure
- VII. Civil law and procedure
- VIII. Criminal investigation
- IX. Court testimony
- X. Ethics

Course Requirements

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

A minimum of two tests

Quizzes can be given as determined by the instructor

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine the specific writing assignments such as:

- Written response to an ethical dilemma in the private investigation field (such as conflict of interest, fees, surveillance, pretext interviews, undercover operations, expectation of privacy, or similar subjects that expectedly produce ethical issues.
- Investigative report that synthesizes the collection of field notes and evidentiary data necessary for court testimony

Other Course Information

This course is a Criminal Justice Program elective.