

**Common Course Outline**  
**CRJU 120**  
**Criminal Law**  
**3 Semester Hours**  
**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**Criminal Law 120 – 3 credits – Criminal Law** studies substantive criminal law as it is applied at local, state and federal levels; examines elements of crimes as prosecuted in a court of law and the sources and types of criminal law. The course examines the evolution and development of criminal laws as well as the nature of crime, basic principles of criminal law, plus defenses, and court presentation.

**Prerequisites:** ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 and CRJU 101 or consent of instructor.

**Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. relate the historical perspectives of criminal law to current day criminal law practice;
2. analyze the differences and similarities between criminal law and civil law;
3. compare the sources of modern criminal law to modern civil law;
4. evaluate the essential elements of various crimes;
5. analyze the legal requirements for charging a defendant with a particular crime and the impact of social class as part of the equation;
6. evaluate the components necessary for a successful prosecution of a criminal case and the role the defense attorney plays in this equation;
7. analyze the process of criminal law through common law, constitutional law, statutory law and case law;
8. evaluate the differences between substantive and procedural criminal law;
9. evaluate, categorize, classify, interrelate, and identify crimes as to seriousness, parties, elements and degree of completion crimes and the elements of the crimes based on scenarios; and
10. evaluate the ramifications of the factors which lessen criminal responsibility.

**Major Topics**

- I. Introduction to criminal law
- II. Civil vs. Criminal Law
- III. Purposes of Criminal Law
- IV. Sources of Substantive law
- V. Types of Crimes
- VI. Types of Punishment
- VII. Elements of a Crime
- VIII. Defenses to Criminal Liability
- IX. Statutory Law
- X. Crimes against Persons and Specific Elements
- XI. Crimes against Property and Specific Elements
- XII. Controlled Dangerous Substances and Specific Elements

## **Course Requirements**

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

A minimum of two (2) tests and a final exam (does not have to be cumulative); quizzes may be given as determined by the instructor

A minimum of one writing assignment from the following selections:

- A series of criminal law scenarios in which the student identifies the specific criminal statutes that were violated
- Identification of media accounts of criminal actions in which the student identifies the crimes involved and the specific elements of the crimes
- Defining a series of key legal terms and concepts which are critical to the understanding of criminal law

**Written Assignments:** The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments in addition to the above.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is a Criminal Justice core course.