

Common Course Outline
CRJU 220
Criminal Justice Procedure and Evidence
3 Credits

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

CRJU 220 – 3 Credits – Criminal Justice Procedure and Evidence examines the principles related to the admissibility of physical and testimonial evidence in a criminal trial. The course reviews court decisions and court regulations that address these matters.

3 credits

Prerequisites: CRJU 101

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. evaluate essential differences between civil and criminal law;
2. distinguish between substantive and procedural law;
3. summarize the basic functions of the criminal justice system;
4. describe the basic stages of the criminal prosecution process;
5. explain the protections of the exclusionary rule;
6. identify the basic police-citizen encounters and the commensurate authority needed for each encounter;
7. analyze the constitutional requirements for criminal interrogations and confessions;
8. explain the hearsay admissibility rules;
9. explain the circumstantial evidence admissibility rules; and,
10. explain the rules regarding the admissibility of physical evidence.

Major Topics

- I. Fundamentals of criminal law and procedure
 - A. Civil and criminal law
 - B. Substantive versus procedure law
- II. Criminal justice system functions
 - A. Retribution
 - B. Incapacitation
 - C. Deterrence
 - D. Restoration
 - E. Punishment
- III. Criminal prosecution process
 - A. Charging
 - B. Pre-trial processes
 - C. Trial process

- D. Appeal process
- IV. Exclusionary rule
 - A. Origin of rule
 - B. Evidentiary exclusions
 - C. Exceptions to rule
- V. Police Encounters and Commensurate Authority
 - A. Accosting
 - B. Investigative detention
 - C. Arrest
- VI. Interrogations and Confessions
 - A. Constitutional issues
 - B. Miranda case
 - C. Admissibility issues
- VII. Hearsay rules
 - A. Admissibility rules
 - B. Exceptions
- VIII. Circumstantial evidence
 - A. Admissibility rules
 - B. Exceptions
- IX. Physical evidence
 - A. Admissibility rules
 - B. Exceptions
- X. Appellate process
 - A. Post-conviction relief
 - B. Non-judicial options available to convicted offenders

Course Requirements

Students are required to utilize academically appropriate sources.

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

1. At least 2 testing instruments including examinations and/or tests; specific number to be determined by the instructor;
2. Written assignments: The individual faculty member will determine specific number of written assignments; minimum of one such assignment such as:
 - Summaries of current events and their relation to course material;
 - Research project (topics may include any subject related to the course)

Other Course Information

This course is an elective within the Criminal Justice Studies Program and the Legal Studies Program.

