

**Common Course Outline**  
**DCOM 213**  
**Introduction to Digital Forensics**  
**4 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**DCOM 213 – 4 Credits – Introduction to Digital Forensics** explores the new and growing field of digital forensics. Students learn how to conduct thorough, forensically sound digital forensics examinations. The course not only focuses on forensic recovery techniques, but also on ensuring that what is found during the examination can be admitted in court.

This class provides the broad-based knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students for further study in digital forensics and may also be used by those interested in a general introduction to the field.

**4 credits; 4 lecture hours per week**

**Co-requisite: DCOM 212 or consent of Program Coordinator**

**Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. demonstrate the practical applications of digital forensics;
2. discuss the variety of hardware and software tools used to build a digital forensics lab;
3. describe techniques for conducting forensic investigations;
4. conduct a forensic investigation using the various hardware and software tools in a forensically sound manner;
5. discuss relevant legal issues;
6. apply the knowledge and skills from this course to prepare for the CyberWATCH Digital Forensics Cup competition.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Introduction to Digital Forensics
- II. Tracking an Offender
- III. The Basics of Hard Drives and Storage Media
- IV. Encryption and Forensics
- V. Data Hiding
- VI. Hostile Code
- VII. Digital Forensics Tools
- VIII. Investigating Windows Computers
- IX. Investigating UNIX/Linux Systems
- X. Introduction to the Criminal Justice System
- XI. Legal and Documentation Issues

## **Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following: minimum of five laboratory projects and a minimum of three exams.

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments, such as preparing formal reports of digital forensics investigations.

## **Other Course Information**

Individual faculty members may include additional course objectives, major topics, and other course requirements to the minimum expectations stated in the Common Course Outline.