

# **CRJU 120**

## **Criminal Law**

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

### **Description**

**CRJU 120 – Criminal Law:** provides students with an introduction to the study of criminal law. Included topics related to sources of criminal law, elements of a criminal act (crime), mental state required, defenses, and certain specific crimes against persons, crimes against property, crimes against public order, and crimes against the State.

**Pre-requisites:** CRJU 101

### **Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. recognize the differences between criminal law and civil law;
2. describe essential elements of various crimes;
3. describe essential elements specific to inchoate crimes;
4. determine the legal requirements for charging an individual with a particular crime;
5. illustrate the components necessary for a successful prosecution of a criminal case;
6. recognize the sources of criminal law, including: common law, constitutional law, case law, and statutory law;
7. differentiate substantive criminal law and criminal procedure;
8. identify various parties to a crime;
9. analyze criminal defenses; and
10. appraise society's policies on punishment.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Introduction to Criminal Law
- II. Criminal Law v. Civil Law
- III. Sources of Criminal Law
- IV. Substantive Criminal Law
- V. Criminal Procedure
- VI. Classification of Crimes
- VII. Elements of a Crime
  - a. Elements related to inchoate crimes
  - b. Elements related to crimes against persons
  - c. Elements related to public order crimes
  - d. Elements related to crimes against the State
- VIII. Defenses to Criminal Responsibility
- IX. Punishment and Policy

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

## **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- two tests.
- three writing assignments to include at least 2 of the following
  - written analysis of criminal law scenarios in which the student identifies the specific statute violated and the elements of the particular crime committed.
  - evaluation of media accounts of crimes committed
  - drafting a case brief related to a criminal law focused court opinion (state or federal).

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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