

CRJU 220
Criminal Justice Procedure and Evidence
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

CRJU 220 – Criminal Justice Procedure and Evidence: examines procedural due process in the criminal justice system from arrest through trial and appeal as well as 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.

Pre-requisites: CRJU 101

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. distinguish between substantive and procedural law;
2. summarize the essential functions of the criminal justice system;
3. describe the stages of the criminal prosecution process;
4. explain the protections of the exclusionary rule;
5. identify the basic police-citizen encounters and the commensurate authority needed for each encounter;
6. analyze the constitutional requirements for criminal interrogations and statements made to law enforcement;
7. differentiate the hearsay rules and exceptions to the hearsay rules;
8. differentiate between circumstantial and direct evidence; and
9. explain the rules regarding the admissibility of various types of evidence in a criminal trial.

Major Topics

- I. Fundamentals of criminal law and procedure
 - a. Civil and criminal law
 - b. Substantive versus procedural 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

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For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- 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

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

- Two testing instruments to include examinations and/or tests.
- One written assignment such as:
 - Summaries of current events and their relation to course material
 - Research project (topics may include any subject related to the course)
 - Supreme Court case brief

Other Course Information

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

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