

CRJU 110

Criminal Investigation

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

CRJU 110 – Criminal Investigation: studies the fundamental principles and procedures employed in the investigation of crime; emphasizes investigation of specific crimes, identification of information sources and procedures required for the handling of evidence, and develops a working knowledge of investigation techniques.

Co-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 100)

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. summarize the historical perspectives of criminal investigation;
2. identify the basic scientific means utilized in solving crime;
3. describe the methods for collecting evidence at crime scenes;
4. outline the proper procedures for conducting systematic searches of crime scenes;
5. describe the basic processes in crime scene reconstruction;
6. identify the basic procedural steps common in most investigations;
7. explain the processes and objectives of interviewing and interrogation;
8. demonstrate the importance of detailed note-taking and report writing;
9. describe the legalities and procedures in arresting suspects;
10. summarize the legalities and procedures for searching crime scenes, vehicles, and persons;
11. analyze the processes used in undercover investigations including drug abuse and vice operations;
12. explain the processes in gathering intelligence information related to terrorism and other types of crimes; and
13. evaluate the trial process and the investigator as a witness.

Major Topics

- I. Introduction to criminal investigation
 - a. Evolution
 - b. Legal aspects of investigation
- II. The investigative process and the crime scene
 - a. Organization of the crime scene investigation
 - b. Types of crime scenes
 - c. Search procedures and documentation

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

- d. Role of the investigator during the trial process
- III. Physical evidence
 - a. Common types, identification and comparison
 - b. Class vs. individualization
 - c. Collection, preserving, packaging
- IV. Interviewing and interrogation
 - a. Objectives and techniques for interviewing and interrogation
 - b. Time, place, and setting for interviewing
 - c. Understanding witnesses
- V. Field notes and reporting
 - a. Importance of note-taking
 - b. Incident reports
- VI. Follow-up Investigation
 - a. Special techniques and resources
 - b. Intelligence gathering, analytical and investigative tools
- VII. Injury and death investigations
 - a. Establishing cause, types and manner of death
 - b. Post-mortem observations
 - c. Wound identification
- VIII. Sex-related offenses
 - a. Classification of sex offenses
 - b. Rape and sex offense investigation including physical evidence
- IX. Crimes against children
 - a. Assaults against children
 - b. Child abuse and molestation
 - c. Sudden infant death syndrome
 - d. Infant abduction
- X. Robbery Investigations
 - a. Elements of the crime
 - b. Typology of robberies
 - c. Follow-up investigative procedures
- XI. Burglary/Theft Investigations
 - a. Elements of the crimes
 - b. Follow-up investigative procedures
 - c. Vehicle thefts
- XII. Other types of crimes
 - a. Drug abuse
 - b. Arson and Explosion investigation
 - c. Computer crimes
 - d. Terrorism

Course Requirements

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

- Written assignments
 - A minimum of one case study
- Two examinations

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- Five quizzes

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine additional writing assignments.

Other Course Information

CRJU 110 is a Criminal Justice core course.

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