

CRJU 113

Criminalistics Lab

1 Credit (2 Laboratory hours per week)

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

CRJU 113 – Criminalistics Lab: provides students with hands-on experience in crime scene management and the processing and analyses of crime scene evidence. For students who attend the in-person FARO-related training, an additional industry certification may be available. CRJU 113 is a laboratory course to accompany CRJU 112.

Co-requisites: CRJU 112

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. demonstrate the various methods for analyzing forensic evidence, including analysis of DNA, physical evidence, fingerprints, body fluids, trace evidence, impression evidence, questioned documents, arson, toxicology, etc.;
2. recognize the fundamental principles of biology, especially as applied to the legal and scientific implications of criminal investigations;
3. articulate logically reasoned positions on legal issues that typify those commonly faced by forensic analysts;
4. describe the methods for collecting evidence at crimes scenes, including documenting, recording, searching, preserving, and packaging;
5. distinguish the characteristics of various types of physical evidence as related to comparison and identification;
6. categorize trace evidence including blood, bodily fluids, hair, fiber, paint, glass, and soil; and
7. describe forensic toxicology and processes used for detecting the presence of alcohol and drugs.

Major Topics

- I. Crime scene investigation
 - a. Integrity protection
 - b. Recordation
 - c. Searching
 - d. Releasing the crime scene
- II. Physical evidence
 - a. Identification

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

- b. Recordation
 - c. Collection, preserving, packaging
 - d. Chain of Custody
- III. Glass evidence
 - a. Determining direction of impact
 - b. Determining sequence of impacts
 - c. High velocity impacts
 - d. Low velocity impacts
- IV. Fingerprint evidence
 - a. Rolling Inked fingerprints
 - i. Patterns, determinations
 - ii. Classification
 - b. Latent print development
 - i. Powder processing
 - ii. Chemical processing
 - c. Examining and comparing fingerprints
 - i. Identification
 - ii. Chart presentation
- V. Trace evidence
 - a. Blood evidence
 - i. Blood spatter recognition
 - ii. Special handling of biological evidence
 - iii. Collection and preservation of blood evidence
 - iv. DNA tests and analyses
 - b. Hair evidence
 - i. Microscopic examination
 - ii. Human hair vs. animal hair
 - c. Fiber evidence
 - i. Microscopic examination
 - ii. Fiber comparison
- VI. Impression evidence
 - a. Firearm evidence
 - i. Projectile examination
 - ii. Cartridge case examination
 - b. Tool marks
 - c. Shoe and tire impressions
 - i. Casting shoe impression
 - ii. Casting tire impressions
 - iii. Comparing cast evidence
- VII. Questioned document examination
 - a. Handwriting analysis
 - b. Obtaining handwriting exemplars
 - c. Alterations, erasures, obliterations
 - d. Comparing handwriting
- VIII. Crime scene management
 - a. Mock crime scene investigation

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

b. Disposition of evidence

Course Requirements

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

- one writing assignment
- three quizzes
- one cumulative project
- successful completion of twelve lab activities

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.

Date Revised: 10/17/2023

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