

CJ330 Firearms and Ballistics

Credit hours: 3

Scheduled hours per week

Lecture: 2.5
 Lab: 0
 Other: 0

Catalog course description:

This course will examine the history of firearms as related to the criminal justice field. It will also examine firearms and ballistics evidence collection at crime scenes and their submission to crime labs for further testing.

Pre-requisites: CJ111 with a “C” or better. Admission to the BASCJ program or signature of CJ program coordinator.

Co-requisites: None

Course learning outcomes:

- Examine the history of firearms and ammunition
- Describe internal, external and terminal ballistics
- Explain forensic firearms and examinations
- Determine range of firing estimations
- Demonstrate the correct procedure for gathering and placing firearms and ammunition into evidence
- Demonstrate the techniques to conduct a gunshot residue examination
- Examine the various methods of removing serial numbers and the various methods of recovering erased serial numbers

Topics to be studied:

You will learn about the history and evolution of firearms and ammunition; internal, external, and terminal ballistics; how striations are formed and their impact on forensic firearms examination; gunshot residue and its implication in range of fire; firearm evidence collection; firearm identification and individualization; wound ballistics; and the use of firearms in crime.

Relationship of course to program or discipline learning outcomes:

Demonstrate proficiency in the vocabulary pertaining to the Criminal Justice field.	
Explain the history and evolution of the CJ system in the US.	
Explain the investigative process and applicable laws.	X
Demonstrate a basic understanding of the law and the legal system in the US.	
Examine the history and theories of and current practices within the corrections system.	
Explain ethics and how it applies to the CJ system and various CJ professionals.	

Recognize the root causes of crime and criminal behavior and the role criminological theory plays in the study of CJ.	
Display decision making and critical thinking skills as they relate to CJ.	X
Apply learned concepts by bridging the gap between theories and practice.	X
Display an advanced level of understanding of CJ theories and concepts.	X
Demonstrate a proficiency in writing, research, and critical thinking pertaining to the CJ field.	
Recognize the underlying societal problems that lead to crime and victimization.	
Utilize CJ theories and concepts to combat social problems and distribute resources effectively.	

Relationship of course to general education learning outcomes:

Composition and Rhetoric: Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	
Science and Technology: Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	X
Mathematics and Quantitative Skills: Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
Society, Diversity, and Connections: Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	
Human Inquiry and the Past: Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	
The Arts and Creativity: Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	
<i>Updated 05-03-2016</i>	

Special requirements of the course:

None

Additional information:

None

Prepared by:

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Date last edited:

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