

**Community College of Rhode Island
Criminal Justice & Legal Studies Department**

**Capstone Course
For
Law Enforcement Majors**

Title: Case Studies in Criminal Law (3 credits)

Integration of Prior Courses: This course will integrate the five areas of study in the law enforcement major: the substantive criminal law (Criminal Law – Law 1010); criminal procedural law (Administration of Justice – Laws 1020); crime scene investigation (Criminalistics I – Laws 1030); evidentiary law (Law of Evidence – Laws 2010); and constitutional law related to law enforcement (Criminal Law & The Constitution – Laws 2030).

Method used for Integration: This capstone course will accomplish its objective of integrating these five areas through the use of two case studies. One of the case studies will involve a murder case such as murder and the second, another crime such as robbery, larceny, arson, or assault & battery. The instructor may vary the crimes used in a particular semester. These case files will include documents that would be involved in an actual criminal case such as bills of indictment, felony information, misdemeanor criminal complaints, police reports, witness statements, forensic reports, search warrant affidavits and inventories, transcripts of court hearings involving the case, motions to suppress evidence or confessions, and the substantive criminal laws that may apply to the facts of the case.

Written Case Reports: Student will be expected to prepare a written report on each case study used in the course which will show their grasp of the five areas being integrated in the program, substantive law, procedural law, forensics, evidence, and constitutional law. These written case reports shall be a minimum of 1500 words each (six word processed pages, double spaced, with one inch margin, and a font size between 10 and 12 points). These written case reports will demonstrate their critical thinking skills and their ability to integrate the material studies and communicate clearly and effectively, in conventional English and using the proper professional terminology.

Career Reflection Piece: Each student shall also be required to make a thoughtful considered “career reflection” as a requirement of the course. This shall be in writing and a minimum of 750 words (three word processed pages, double spaced, with one inch margin, and a font size between 10 and 12 points). The student will reflect on their experiences and courses at CCRI in the Law Enforcement major including (1) their reasons for choosing the major, (2) how their views of the major may have changed or

not changed over their time in the program, (3) what their plans are for the future and whether those plans include further education or work or both, and (4) whether they plan to remain in the legal field or not, along with their reasons and rationale for their decision

Prerequisites: This course will have as prerequisites the five courses mentioned above namely, Laws 1010, 1020, 1030, 2010, and 2030. Thus, students will take this course near the end of their time at the Community College of Rhode Island.

This course will be required for all new students who enter the Law Enforcement major beginning with the Fall 2008 semester. The course will be first offered in the spring 2009 semester at the Knight Campus in Warwick and may be taken as an elective by those students already in the major and who are not required to take the course.