

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**CRIM- 126**  
**Vehicle Law and Accident Investigation**  
3 Semester hours

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

This course focuses on Maryland and Federal vehicle laws, types of vehicle offenses, safety principles, citation and arrest procedures, and accident investigation procedures; details procedures and coding for the Maryland Automated Accident Reporting System. Only students authorized by the Howard County Police Department Academy are eligible to enroll in this course. (3 hours weekly)

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the basis for motor vehicle law
2. Utilize the Maryland Vehicle Law to identify specific requirements and violations
3. Describe how vehicle laws are enforced
4. Recall the process for adjudicating violations in the State of Maryland
5. Analyze laws and procedures related to impaired driving enforcement
6. List basic procedures for investigating a motor vehicle collision
7. Relate vehicle law, enforcement and accident investigation to the development of highway safety programs

**Major Topics**

- I. Introduction
  - A. History
  - B. Need for traffic regulation
- II. Vehicle law
  - A. Structure of Maryland Vehicle Law
  - B. Review of important titles
  - C. Impaired driving regulations
  - D. Traffic enforcement procedures
  - E. Adjudication
- III. Traffic accident investigation
  - A. Classification of traffic accidents
  - B. Causes of traffic accidents
  - C. Steps of traffic accident management
  - D. Preservation of evidence
  - E. Interview of witnesses and drivers
  - F. Accident reporting
- IV. Traffic safety programs
  - A. Elements of safety programs
  - B. Use of data

**Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- written assignments
- tests/Quizzes

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

**Other Course Information**

This course is taught in the classroom using a variety of instructional techniques which are intended to meet the varied learning styles of our diverse student population.

These strategies rely on positive interdependence in a cooperative learning environment. Individual accountability is a key outcome of these strategies. They include:

- Guided teaching and lecture
- Large group discussion
- Small group interaction and activities
- Case studies
- Read/watch and discuss