

## Course Objectives/Course Outline

### Spokane Community College

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**Course Title: Criminal Justice Communications**

**Prefix and Course Number: CJ 202**

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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of this course, a student should be able to:**

- Show the ability to gather complete, truthful, accurate information from witnesses, victims and suspects using standard interviewing techniques
- Identify internal and external factors which can influence accuracy of a statement, and techniques to resolve these factors
- Identify and discuss the differences between interviews and interrogations
- Identify and discuss standard interrogation tactics
- Identify and discuss the difference between a confession and an admission
- Discuss common practices used to testify in court proceedings to include limiting answers to the question asked, pausing after a question to allow for objections, and other common practices used by law enforcement professionals
- Identify tactics commonly used against police witnesses while testifying and identifying appropriate response to these tactics
- Identify court room etiquette such as appropriate dress, speech, and behavior

**Course Outline:**

- I. Special Communications Issues
  - a. Communication with people from other cultures
    - i. Multicultural communication issues
  - b. Communicating with persons with hearing impairments
    - i. Recognizing the problem
    - ii. Sensitivity to the problem
    - iii. Communication tactics
  - c. Communication with persons with mental issues
    - i. Recognizing the problem
    - ii. Sensitivity to the problem
    - iii. Communication tactics
- II. Communicating in Public
  - a. Public Speaking
  - b. Communication with the Media
  - c. Courtroom Testimony
- III. Questioning Witnesses, Victims and Suspects
  - a. Pre-*Miranda* Techniques
  - b. *Miranda v. Arizona*
  - c. The eroding of *Miranda*
  - d. Interviews
    - i. Planning interviews
    - ii. Interview location
    - iii. Note taking
    - iv. General rules for question construction
    - v. Physical conditions that influence interview success
    - vi. Questioning techniques
      1. Free narrative

2. Direct questioning
3. Questions which test previous statements
- vii. Active listening
- viii. Interview Tactics
  1. Rules for establishing rapport
  2. General tactical guidelines
  3. Interpretation of unspoken behavior
- ix. Interviewing victims
  1. Special victims
    - a. Sexual assault victims
    - b. Juvenile victims
- e. Interrogations
  - i. Interrogation Techniques
  - ii. Recording interrogations
- f. Confessions versus admissions
  - i. Elements of a criminal law
  - ii. The usefulness of admissions
  - iii. Confessions need corroboration
- IV. Hostage Negotiation
  - a. Goals and guidelines for negotiation
- V. Courtroom Testimony
  - a. The officer's role at trial
  - b. Preparing for court
    - i. Reviewing the case
    - ii. Appropriate dress
      1. Cell phones and other electronic devices
  - c. Behavior expected in court
  - d. Answering the questions
    - i. Pace to allow for objections
    - ii. Giving your answers to the jury
    - iii. Limiting answers to the question
  - e. Common tactics used against police witnesses and other problems
    - i. Attempts to make officer look inept
    - ii. Attempts to anger officer
    - iii. What to do when an error in the investigation comes up
      1. Explain it, own it and move on
    - iv. Confusing questions and other questions which are not clearly understood