

Common Course Outline
CRJU 101
Introduction to Criminal Justice
3 Semester hours
The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

CRJU 101 – 3 credits – Introduction to Criminal Justice discusses the history, philosophy and social development of police, courts, and corrections in a democratic society. It covers identification and operations of local, state and federal agencies, while emphasizing criminal justice career orientation.

Prerequisites: none

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. relate the components of the criminal justice system to the collective goal of public safety;
2. analyze the historical development of Anglo-American law and its impact on contemporary substantive and procedural law;
3. compare the three major methods of crime measurement including how the data is used in the criminal justice system;
4. evaluate major theoretical perspectives that attempt to explain criminal behavior;
5. examine the role of crime victims in the criminal justice system, including their legal rights;
6. analyze the structure and role of law enforcement in America;
7. distinguish between the jurisdiction of the state and federal court systems in America;
8. describe the factors which influence sentencing options available to the court;
9. summarize the historical development of institutional corrections and current issues related to the inmate population;
10. define the goals and responsibilities of community corrections;
11. analyze the unique characteristics of juvenile justice; and
12. evaluate the future of the criminal justice system under crime control/due process models.

Major Topics

- I. Crime and justice in the United States
 - A. An institution of social control
 - B. The components of the criminal justice system
- II. Crime and its consequences
 - A. The elements and measurements of crime
 - B. Costs of crime
 - C. The extent of fear of crime in the U.S.
 - D. Victimization trends and victims
- III. Criminological theory
 - A. Classical and neoclassical
 - B. Positive, biological, sociological and critical approaches
- IV. The rule of law
 - A. Criminal and civil law
 - B. Substantive and procedural law
 - C. Procedural rights

- V. American law enforcement
 - A. Origin and development
 - B. Structure, role and functions of police
 - C. Community policing
 - D. Recruitment and training
- VI. The court system
 - A. Types and purposes of each court
 - B. The stages of the trial process
 - C. Types and purposes of sentencing
- VII. Institutional corrections
 - A. Historical developments
 - B. Organization and programming
 - C. Characteristics of the inmate population; rights of inmates
 - D. Release policy and recidivism
- VIII. Community corrections
 - A. Goals and responsibilities
 - B. Parole and intermediate sentencing
- IX. Juvenile justice
 - A. History
 - B. Juvenile adjudication and corrections
- X. Predicting the future of criminal justice
 - A. Crime control model
 - B. Due process model

Course Requirements

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

A minimum of two tests and a final exam (does not have to be cumulative); quizzes can be given as determined by the instructor.

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine the specific writing assignments, such as:

A written assignment that allows the student to examine career opportunities in the field;
Summaries of current events and their relation to course material;
Evaluation of a criminal trial that was observed; or
Analysis of a specific problem that is apparent in our criminal justice system.

Course Information

This course is a Criminal Justice core course.