

# Common Course Outline

## CRJU 102

### Survey of Legal Issues

3 semester hours

## The Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

#### **Survey of Legal Issues**

Covers legal issues of direct value to criminal justice personnel in their professional roles as well as in their roles as private citizens; includes domestic matters, contracts, commercial code, real estate property, personal property, torts and administration.

Prerequisites: ENGL 052 and RDNG 052 or ESOL 052)

### Overall Course Objectives

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

- relate types and functions of law to models of society
- discuss the development and theories of law and society
- describe the organizational structure of the criminal structure system as it relates to the law
- identify theories of lawmaking and apply them administrative and judicial processes
- analyze social controls and their application to specific crimes presented in class
- discuss the role of the courts in various methods of conflict resolution
- apply law to the creation and maintenance of social change
- identify the emergence, training and professionalism of lawyers
- explain the methods and impact of legal research

### Major Topics

- I. Law
  - A. Types of law
  - B. Legal systems
  - C. Function of law
  - D. Dysfunction of law
  - E. Models of society
  - F. Approaches to the study of law and society
- II. Theoretical perspectives
  - A. Development of legal systems
  - B. Theories of law and society
  - C. Current trends in the study of law in society
- III. Organization of law
  - A. Courts
  - B. Legislatures
  - C. Administrative agencies
  - D. Law enforcement agencies
- IV. Lawmaking
  - A. Theories and legislation

- B. Administrative and judicial lawmaking
- C. Influences on the lawmaking processes
- V. Law and social control
  - A. Informal and formal social controls
  - B. Debate over the death penalty
  - C. Civil commitment
  - D. Crimes without victims
  - E. White collar crimes
  - F. Administrative law and social dissent
- VI. Law as method for conflict resolution
  - A. Methods of conflict resolution
  - B. Demands for court services in conflict resolution
  - C. A typology of litigants
  - D. Disputes between individuals, individuals and organizations and organizations
- VII. Law and social change
  - A. Reciprocity between law and social change
  - B. Social changes as causes of legal changes
  - C. Law as an institution of social change
  - D. Advantages of law in creating social change
  - E. Limitations of law in creating social change
- VIII. The profession and practice of law
  - A. Professionalism of lawyers
  - B. Legal profession today
  - C. Lawyers and money
  - D. Competition for business
  - E. Legal services for the needy and not so needy
  - F. Training of lawyers and admission to the bar
  - G. Professional discipline
- IX. Researching law in society
  - A. Methods of inquiry
  - B. Impact of sociology on policy
  - C. Evaluation research and impact studies

## **Course Requirements**

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

- Written assignments
- Tests/Quizzes
- Attendance and participation

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

## **Other Course Information**

This course is a Criminal Justice elective. It 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.