

**Common Course Outline**  
**CRJU 114**  
**Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs**  
**3 semester hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs**

Surveys the history and development of national and international drug traffic; focuses on identification, effects and sources of selected drugs of abuse.

Prerequisites: ENGL 052 and RDNG 052 or ESOL 052

**Overall Course Objectives**

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

- discuss the nature of the drug problem in America
- state the social costs of drug abuse
- identify theories of drug abuse and crime
- explain the history of drug abuse in America and other countries
- relate key issues of drug abuse to the formulation of current drug laws and policies
- recall the source, identification and effects of selected drugs of abuse
- analyze key topics in American drug control policy, including the “war on drugs”, “decriminalization” and “break the cycle”
- compare issues related to drug trafficking and organized crime
- state the roles of law enforcement in the drug control efforts in this country
- calculate the impact of treatment programs on the drug problem in America

**Major Topics**

- I. The nature of the drug problem in the United States
  - A. Overview of the drug crisis – home, school, work
  - B. Attitudes about drugs, drug abuse trends and social costs of drug abuse
  - C. Drug abuse and crime – theories
- II. History of drug abuse
  - A. Opium menace of the 1800’s
  - B. Late nineteenth century and the twentieth century
  - C. Looking ahead
- III. Understanding drugs of abuse
  - A. Defining drugs
  - B. Impact of drug abuse
  - C. Dependence versus abuse
  - D. Drug categories
- IV. The illicit drug trade
  - A. The business of illegal drugs
  - B. The economics of drug trafficking
  - C. Merchandising and distribution of illegal drugs
  - D. The international perspective

- V. Domestic drug production
  - A. Pharmaceutical drug industry and the drug approval dilemma
  - B. Adverse drug reaction
  - C. Domestic marijuana cultivation and clandestine laboratories
  - D. Pharmaceutical diversion
- VI. Drugs and crime
  - A. Predatory and violent crime
  - B. Police corruption and corruption in foreign countries
  - C. Money laundering
- VII. Organized crime and the drug trade
  - A. Defining organized crime
  - B. Drug gangs as organized crime
- VIII. Domestic drug trafficking organizations
  - A. Traditional organized crime – the Mafia
  - B. Outlaw motorcycle gangs, youth gangs, Jamaican posses, prison gangs
- IX. Foreign drug trafficking organizations
  - A. Columbian organized crime, Mexican drug traffickers
  - B. Narcoterrorism
  - C. Cuban and Asian drug traffickers
- X. The drug control initiative
  - A. Goals of drug control and drug laws
  - B. Federal drug enforcement and interdiction
  - C. Strategies for street-level enforcement
- XI. Critical issues in drug control
  - A. Zero tolerance and the war on drugs
  - B. Public policy issues
- XII. Legalizing drugs
  - A. Arguments for and against legalization
  - B. Experiences in other countries
- XIII. Understanding drug control policy
  - A. Issues related to supply and demand
  - B. Legal issues
- XIV. Control through treatment and prevention
  - A. Treatment programs
  - B. Prevention initiatives

### **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

### **Course Information**

This course is a Criminal Justice elective course. 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 on a cooperative learning environment. Individual accountability is a key outcome of these strategies.