

**Common Course Outline**  
**CRJU 128/PALG 128**  
**Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**  
**3 Semester hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**CRJU 128 – 3 Credits – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties** introduces civil rights and civil liberties within the framework of the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Students discuss the significant rights provided by the Bill of Rights as interpreted by the courts in the post 9/11 era and the impact of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment on equal protection claims. Additionally, administrative, criminal and civil remedies for civil rights violations are discussed.

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 052 and RDNG 052 or ESOL 052

**Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. explain basic civil rights and civil liberties;
2. describe how the U.S. Supreme Court impacts on civil rights and civil liberties;
3. describe the basic functions of the court system;
4. compare the concepts of judicial activism and judicial restraint;
5. summarize the Bill of Rights;
6. describe the basic rights defined within the first 14 Amendments of the U.S. Constitution;
7. explain privacy rights as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court;
8. apply equal protection rights as defined in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment; and,
9. explain the administrative, criminal and civil remedies for violations of civil rights.

**Major Topics**

- I. Introduction to Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
  - A. Definitions of civil rights and civil liberties
  - B. Basic concepts
- II. The U.S. Supreme Court
  - A. Functions
  - B. Impact
- III. U.S. Bill of Rights
  - A. History
  - B. First Amendment
  - C. Second Amendment
  - D. Fourth Amendment
  - E. Fifth Amendment
  - F. Sixth Amendment
  - G. Eighth Amendment

#### IV. Right to Privacy

- A. History
- B. Reproductive freedom
- C. Homosexual marriage
- D. Assisted suicide

#### V. Equal Protection of the Laws

- A. Fourteenth Amendment
- B. Racial discrimination
- C. Affirmative Action
- D. Sex discrimination
- E. Sexual harassment
- F. Sexual preference issues
- G. Voting

#### VI. Administrative, Criminal and Civil Remedies for Violation of Civil Rights

- A. Title 42 U.S.C. Section 1983
- B. Title 18 U.S.C. Section 242
- C. Criminal charges
- D. Administrative charges

### **Course Requirements**

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

- Minimum of six (6) writing assignments to include:
  - Issue Analysis Papers
  - Amendment Analysis Papers
  - Speaker Critiques

- Minimum of two (2) tests

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an elective within the Criminal Justice Studies Program and the Legal Studies Program.