

# Common Course Outline

CRJU 201

Criminal Justice Seminar

3 semester hours

## The Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

#### **Criminal Justice Seminar**

Offers comprehensive group analysis of selected criminal justice topics; introduces students in the Criminal Justice Program to a wider range of academic disciplines and humanistic concerns.

### Overall Course Objectives

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

- identify areas of the Criminal Justice System that relate to other disciplines
- discuss relevant issues using contemporary literature
- lead discussions in class which include open conversation among students
- conduct original research and exchange results through reports and discussion
- relate material learned in previous classes to contemporary issues in the field of Criminal Justice
- participate in class discussion under the leadership of other students

### Major Topics

This course is not structured in a traditional format. The areas of study will vary each semester depending on current issues and class interest. Suggested topics for research and discussion are:

- substance abuse and crime
- family violence
- capital punishment
- juvenile delinquency
- corrections – institutional and community
- police brutality
- sentencing reform
- diversity in the Criminal Justice System
- organized crime and gangs
- white collar crime
- gun control
- victims of crime

### 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.

The class format is innovative in its use of class discussion under the direction of class participants. It is meant to provide students with the opportunity to apply the content of previous courses with advanced studies in specific areas related to Criminal Justice. Topics of discussion are decided upon by the students and leadership must be demonstrated in that area during class.