

Common Course Outline

CRJU 202/SOC 202

Criminology

3 semester hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Criminology

Introduces the student to the basic theories, fundamental facts and problems associated with the science of criminology; focuses on providing a systematic basis for the study of criminals and criminal behavior as related to the criminal justice system.

Overall Course Objectives

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

- define criminology and the ways in which criminologists conduct research
- identify the functions and definitions of criminal law
- discuss the process by which crime trends and patterns are measured
- state the needs and problems of victims of crime
- distinguish between classical and choice theories
- recognize the components of trait theories
- relate social structure and social process theories to social policy
- recall social conflict theories and the contributions of theorists responsible for their development
- identify the multifactor theories of crime
- distinguish between the dynamics and forms of violent crime and property crime
- relate white collar and organized crime to the criminal justice system
- explain the factors which cause morality and substance abuse to be addressed by the criminal justice system

Major Topics

- I. Define criminology as a component of the criminal justice system
 - A. Historical perspective
 - B. Origins and functions of law
 - C. Crime trends and patterns
 - D. Impact of crime on victims
- II. Theories of the causes of criminal behavior
 - A. Classical
 - B. Choice
- III. Trait theories
 - A. Biological
 - B. Psychological
- IV. Social structure theory
 - A. Social disorganization
 - B. Strain theory
 - C. Cultural deviance

- V. Social process theory
 - A. Social learning
 - B. Social control
 - C. Labeling
- VI. Conflict theory
 - A. Modern conflict theorists
 - B. Peacemaking criminology
- VII. Multifactor theories of crime
 - A. Latent trait approach
 - B. Life course theories
- VIII. Violent crime
- IX. Property crimes
- X. White collar and organized crime
- XI. Public order crimes: sex and substance abuse

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 core course and a Sociology elective. Credit may be received for CRJU 202 or SOCL202 but not for both. 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. They include:

- Guided teaching and lecture
- Large group discussion
- Small group interaction and activities
- Case studies
- Read/watch and discuss