

Common Course Outline
CRJU 128/PALG 128
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
3 Credits

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

CRJU/PALG 128 – 3 Credits – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties examines civil rights and civil liberties within the framework of the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Supreme Court decisions. It covers the significant rights provided by the Bill of Rights as interpreted by the courts and the impact of the 14th Amendment on equal protection claims. Additionally, administrative, criminal, and civil remedies for civil rights violations are discussed.

3 credits

Prerequisites: ENGL 052 and RDNG 052

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. identify basic civil rights and civil liberties within American society;
2. describe the U.S. Supreme Court's impacts on civil rights and civil liberties;
3. describe the basic functions and impact of U.S. Supreme Court decisions;
4. compare and contrast the concepts of judicial activism and judicial restraint;
5. summarize the Bill of Rights;
6. identify privacy rights as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court;
7. explain equal protection rights as defined in the 14th Amendment; and
8. identify 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 Supreme Court
 - A. Functions
 - B. Impact
- III. U.S. Bill of Rights
 - A. History
 - B. First Amendment
 - C. Second Amendment
 - D. Third Amendment
 - E. Fourth Amendment
 - F. Fifth Amendment
 - G. Sixth Amendment

- H. Seventh Amendment
- I. Eighth Amendment
- J. Ninth Amendment
- K. Tenth Amendment
- IV. Right to Privacy
 - A. History
 - B. Reproductive freedom
 - C. Homosexual marriage
 - D. Assisted suicide
- V. Equal Protection of the Law
 - A. Fourteenth Amendment
 - B. Racial Discrimination
 - C. Affirmative Action
 - D. Sexual 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

Students are required to utilize academically-appropriate sources.

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

1. At two (2) testing instruments to include examinations and/or tests.
2. Written assignments: The individual faculty member will determine specific number of written assignments; minimum of one such assignment such as:
 - Summaries of current events and their relation to course material;
 - Research project (topics may include any subject related to the course)

Other Course Information

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