

Common Course Outline
CRJU 142
Law Enforcement and the Community
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description – CRJU 142 – **Law Enforcement and the Community** examines the relationship between law enforcement officers and the community they serve. Topics include policing in a culturally diverse society, ethics, and the public image of the police.

3 credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. assess the professional role of the police;
2. explain the importance of police discretion;
3. describe the ethical issues and considerations related to policing in America;
4. relate the views of self-image and the public image of police officers;
5. examine the conflicting roles in policing;
6. explain the perceptions, attitudes, beliefs and values of police;
7. describe the issues related to police, minorities, violence and civil disorders;
8. summarize the processes for handling complaints against police;
9. identify the function police in crime prevention efforts;
10. summarize the correct procedures for responding to the media; and
11. examine police programs of the past, present, and projected for the future.

Major Topics

- I. Fundamentals
 - A. History of American policing
 - B. The concept of police-community relations
 - C. Role and professionalism
 - D. Police discretion
 - E. Ethics and the police
- II. Psychological aspects of police and community relations
 - A. Conflicting roles in policing (the paradox of policing)
 - B. Self-image of the police officer
 - C. Public image of the police officer
 - D. Perceptions, attitudes, beliefs and values
- III. Sociological considerations
 - A. Social processes, population trends and the urban environment
 - B. The police, demography, and minority issues

- C. Racial profiling
 - D. Violence and civil disorders
 - E. Complaints and the police
 - F. Issues related to special populations (youth, women, domestic violence, crime victims, elderly, handicapped)
- IV. Other considerations
- A. Politics and community policing (relations)
 - B. Police unions
 - C. Issues and programs in crime prevention and displacement
 - D. The media
- V. Programs
- A. Past programs
 - B. Programs currently in use today
 - C. A look at the future

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)

Course Information

CRJU 142 is a Criminal Justice Studies elective.