

Common Course Outline

CRJU 203

Victims of Crime

3 semester hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Victims of Crime examines the process of victimization, the impact of specific types of crime and the victim's role in the Criminal Justice System. It includes a focus on victim-centered approaches and the emerging emphasis on restorative justice to better integrate the needs of crime victims into the system.

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053; MATH 081

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. summarize the role of victimologists in our society and the Criminal Justice System;
2. compare the prominent theories of victimization to the current role of victims in the Criminal Justice System;
3. assess the primary and secondary injuries suffered by crime victims;
4. relate the needs that are shared by many crime victims to the process of victimization;
5. analyze the concepts of crime reaction and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder;
6. assess the impact of specific types of crime on the victim;
7. explain the development of the victims' rights movement, including the concept of restorative justice;
8. recommend approaches that law enforcement officers can take to reduce the impact of crime on the victim;
9. summarize programs currently implemented by the courts to include victims' needs in the judicial process; and
10. explain policies being used by the corrections systems to protect and serve crime victims.

Major Topics

- I. The process of victimization (weeks 1 and 2)
 - A. Victimology - Historical development of science and theories
 - B. The crime reaction and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - C. Primary and secondary injuries/victimization
 - D. Measuring crime and victimization
- II. Specific types of victims (weeks 3 – 11)
 - A. Homicide
 - B. Sexual assault
 - C. Domestic and dating violence
 - D. Family violence (child abuse and child sexual abuse; elder and vulnerable adult abuse)
 - E. Criminal driving (DWI)
 - F. Economic and White Collar crimes (fraud, scams, identity theft, etc.)
 - G. Property crimes (burglary, theft, etc.)
 - H. Crimes of violence (assault, robbery, carjacking, etc.)
 - I. Hate Crimes
 - J. Workplace and school violence

- K. Gang violence
- L. Special populations as victims (disabled, minority, elderly)
- III. Criminal Justice response to victims (weeks 12 – 14)
 - A. Restorative justice
 - B. Victims' rights movement; legal mandates and reform
 - C. Systems' response
 - 1. law enforcement
 - 2. courts
 - 3. corrections

Course Requirements

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

- written assignments
- oral presentations
- assigned research based on the specific topic discussed each week
- demonstrated mastery of objectives – written tests or performance-based observation

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. It is very dependent on professional input from subject matter experts in the field of victims' services. Victim advocates from social service and criminal justice agencies are included in the presentation of material. Survivors of crime are also invited into the classroom to give accounts of their experiences.

Students are required to participate actively by conducting independent research and sharing their results with the class. This creates a discovery-type learning environment where outcomes are achieved by corroboration between the instructor and students.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in growth in knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending classes, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities and preparing for tests.

We take seriously our responsibility to maintain high-quality programs and will periodically ask you to participate in assessment activities to determine whether our students are attaining the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate to various courses and programs. The assessment activities may take many different forms such as surveys, standardized or faculty-developed tests, discussion groups or portfolio evaluations. We ask that you take these activities seriously so that we can obtain valid data to use for the continuous improvements of CCBC's course and programs.