

**Common Course Outline**  
**CRJU 250**  
**Ethics and Diversity in Criminal Justice**  
**3 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**CRJU 250 – 3 Credits - Ethics and Diversity in Criminal Justice** examines the decision-making process in criminal justice as it relates to discretion, due process, integrity and discrimination. The course emphasizes the rights, dignity and worth of all people impacted – criminal justice personnel, crime victims, and those accused and convicted of crimes. It also examines the challenges of administering justice effectively in a diverse, multi-cultural community. Students apply ethical and unbiased considerations to current issues (such as race, ethnicity, age, gender and sexual orientation) facing the criminal justice professional.

**Prerequisites:** CRJU 101 and ENGL 101 or permission of the Criminal Justice Studies Department Chair

**Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. describe the importance of accountability and integrity to criminal justice professionals;
2. assess and evaluate the ethical dilemmas encountered in this field;
3. synthesize the major philosophies of moral virtue and responsibility as they apply to ethical behavior in the justice system;
4. analyze the sources of alleged moral authority;
5. distinguish between ethical and legal principles;
6. evaluate the impact of technology, demographics and the media on ethical behavior and the challenges they present to personal privacy;
7. define the concepts such as race, ethnicity, gender, prejudice and discrimination as they impact crime processing, offending, and victimization;
8. identify the roles and functions of police, courts and corrections in a culturally diverse society;
9. assess ways in which crime processing is biased and how multiculturalism contributes to conflict within the justice system;
10. analyze data from statistical sources in relation to disparity and disproportionate representation of minorities in the Criminal Justice System;
11. demonstrate the ability to utilize technology tools to access and evaluate information about diversity in criminal justice; and
12. evaluate the challenges facing criminal justice agencies in proactive efforts to recruit, hire and promote minorities.

## **Major Topics**

- I. The logic of ethics and importance of validity
- II. Philosophical ethics
  - A. Consequentialism
  - B. Regulariansim
  - C. Deontology
  - D. Aristotelian
  - E. Religious
- III. Sources of moral authority
  - A. Constitution
    - i. Natural law
    - ii. Rights
    - iii. Justice
  - B. Professional codes of conduct
- IV. Professions and professional ethics
  - A. Legislature
  - B. Law enforcement
  - C. Judiciary
  - D. Corrections
- V. Challenges facing ethics and morality in the system
  - A. Technology
  - B. Changing demographics
  - C. Media influence
- VI. Cultural specifics in the justice system and relationship to crime
  - A. Race
  - B. Class
  - C. Ethnicity
  - D. Gender
  - E. Age
  - F. Sexual orientation
  - G. Ability/disability
- VII. Internal issues in the Criminal Justice System and multiculturalism
  - A. Policing
  - B. Judiciary
  - C. Corrections
    - i. Institutional
    - ii. Community
  - D. Hiring policies and recruitment efforts
- VIII. Information technology
  - A. Data collection instruments
  - B. Trends in arrest and incarceration
  - C. Impact on public policy

## **Course Requirements**

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

- At least two exams with questions that require critical thinking such as essays and case studies
- Quizzes and additional assessment as determined by instructor

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments. Examples are:

- An individual or cooperative research paper
- An observation report that applies course concepts
- A policy/action paper that resolves or a research paper that addresses ethical or cultural dilemmas in the justice system
- A current events journal chronicling recent ethical or cultural dilemmas in the justice system

## **Other Course Information**

This course is a Criminal Justice Studies Program core course.