

Course Outline
POLS 123
You and Everyday Law
3 Credit Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description.

You and Everyday Law

Surveys, everyday law and how it affects you and your family. Provides a practical look at your protection against wrongs and crimes; your personal property, automobile, home, family, job, wealth, insurance, estate; and using a lawyer. Presented in clear, non-technical terms, to help you know and enjoy your rights under the law.

Prerequisite: (RDNG 052 or LVR 2); (ENGL 052 or LVE 2); (MATH 081 or LVM 1)

Overall Course Objectives (Learning Objectives)

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

1. Explain when and how to use a lawyer;
2. Explain how the American legal system works;
3. Describe the major rules of family law;
4. Describe the legal aspects of buying and selling a home;
5. Identify the legal aspects of home ownership;
6. Describe the legal aspects of renting residential property;
7. Explain the legal basis of consumer credit;
8. Describe consumer bankruptcy;
9. Describe contracts and consumer law;
10. Identify the legal aspects of acquiring and using automobiles;
11. Describe the major features of law regarding employment and the workplace;
12. Describe the legal aspects of forming and operating a small business;
13. Describe the law governing personal injuries;
14. Describe the laws, procedures and rights of the criminal justice system;
15. Describe the legal rights of elderly people;
16. Describe wills, trusts and estate planning.

Major Topics

1. When and how to use a lawyer
2. How the American legal system works
3. Family law
4. Buying and selling a home
5. Home ownership

6. Renting residential property
7. Consumer credit
8. Consumer bankruptcy
9. Contracts and consumer law
10. Automobiles
11. Employment and the workplace
12. Forming and operating a small business
13. Personal injuries
14. Criminal justice
15. Rights of elderly people
16. Wills, trusts and estate planning

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to demonstrate learning through:

1. Two or more extensive in-class examinations, including analytical essay questions;
2. Additional written or oral exercises (e.g., quizzes, reports, term papers) at the instructor's discretion.

Other Course Information

1. This course is a Social and Behavioral Sciences elective.
2. Regular attendance and participation in class is a requirement for this course.
3. Students will be expected to have regular access to a required text and such additional learning material as an instructor may assign.
4. The instructor, at his/her discretion, may arrange for guest lecturers, audio/video presentations, and/or attention to current events as a part of the Course content;
5. The instructor will be available to assist students through regular office hours, telephone, and in some cases voice mail and Internet email.

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