

# Common Course Outline

120

Urban Sociology

3 Semester Hours

## The Community College of Baltimore County

### **Description**

#### Urban Sociology

Discusses social life, social relations and social change in contemporary cities and suburbs; analyzes current controversies and problems; covers racial change, poverty, housing, street crime, school integration, mental health, suburban sprawl, and new planned communities; critically reviews proposed solutions, government urban policy, and the sociopolitical content of urban planning.

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

### **Overall Course Objectives**

- Describe the basic assumptions of urban sociology
- Discuss the most important issues and problems facing urban areas in America
- Explore the basic theories used in analyzing urbanization, particularly in America
- Apply the major theories to the analysis of the problems and issues of urban areas
- Describe the methods used in doing scientific research about urbanization
- Discuss how to utilize these methods in data gathering and analysis about urban areas
- Explain the causes responsible for the growth of cities and surrounding suburbs
- Discuss solutions to the problems accompanying urbanization and their implementation
- Describe the effect of government policies on the operation and activities of cities
- Discuss the changing nature of cities and their inherent needs in an postindustrial age
- Discuss the effect of life in urban areas on human behavior, relationships, and traditional values

## **Major Topics**

- The current state of cities in America
- Important theoretical orientations
- Scientific techniques used in studying urbanization in America
- Cross-cultural perspectives of cities
- The effect of change on American cities
- Major issues and problems of cities
- Government policies that have affected urban areas
- Proposed solutions and new policies addressing urban issues and problems
- Historical development of cities
- The effect of urban living on behavior among people

## **Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty members but will include the following: at least 3 examinations

Writing: The individual faculty member will determine specific writing assignments