

Common Course Outline

CRJU 102

Survey of Legal Issues

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

CRJU 102 – 3 Credits – Survey of Legal Issues analyzes legal issues in the criminal justice system that would be of interest to the criminal justice professional. Topics may include current Supreme Court issues, hate crime, domestic violence, gun control, the death penalty, police civil liability, privacy rights, wrongful conviction and public policy, reforms to the justice system and law enforcement counter-terrorism activities.

3 credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. identify current legal and policy problems and issues in the criminal justice system;
2. evaluate past and present legal and policy solutions to problems and issues in the criminal justice system;
3. analyze legal issues connected with existing and proposed crime policies, programs and projects;
4. apply competing legal principles and theories to real and hypothetical problems in the criminal justice system;
5. construct and evaluate arguments on legal and policy issues in the criminal justice system; and
6. evaluate current literature, materials and developments regarding legal and policy issues in the criminal justice system.

Major Topics

- I. Defining Law
 - a. Types of law
 - b. Legal systems
 - c. Function of law
 - d. Dysfunction of law
 - e. Models of society
 - f. Approaches to the study of law and society
- II. Criminal Justice Policy Issues
 - a. Criminal justice policy evolution in the United States
 - b. Current trends in the legal policy

- III. Current Legal Policy Issues
 - a. The death penalty
 - b. Wrongful conviction and public policy
 - c. Hate crime
 - d. Gun control
 - e. The right of privacy
 - f. The war on terrorism and domestic counter terrorism activities
 - g. Police civil liability
 - h. Domestic violence
 - i. Reforms to the justice system
- IV. Legal Principles
 - a. Social norms
 - b. Rules
- V. Law and social change
 - a. Reciprocity between law and social change
 - b. Social changes as causes of legal changes
 - c. Law as an institution of social change
 - d. Advantages of law in creating social change
 - e. Limitations of law in creating social change

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); or
 - Analysis of a controversial issue (death penalty, hate crime, police civility, etc.).

Other Course Information

This course is a Criminal Justice Studies elective course.