

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.