

POLS 123

You and Everyday Law

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

POLS 123 – 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.

Pre-requisites: (RDNG 052 or LVR 2); (ENGL 052 or LVE 2); (MATH 081 or LVM 1)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students 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; and
16. Describe wills, trust, and estate planning.

Major Topics

- I. When and how to use a lawyer
- II. How the American legal system works
- III. Family law
- IV. Buying and selling a home
- V. Home ownership
- VI. Renting residential property
- VII. Consumer credit
- VIII. Consumer bankruptcy

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- IX. Contracts and consumer law
- X. Automobile
- XI. Employment and the workplace
- XII. Forming and operating a small business
- XIII. Personal injuries
- XIV. Criminal justice
- XV. Rights of elderly people
- XVI. Wills, trusts and estate planning

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

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

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is a Social and Behavioral Science Elective. Regular attendance and participation in class is a requirement of this course. Students will be expected to have regular access to a required text and such additional learning materials as an instructor may assign. The instructor, at his/her discretion, may arrange for guest lecturers, audio/video presentations and/or attention to current events as part of the course content. The instructor will be available to assist students through regular office hours, telephone and in some cases voicemail and internet email.

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