

# **CRJU 102**

## **Survey of Legal Issues**

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

### **Description**

**CRJU 102 – 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 cases, hate crime, domestic violence, gun control, the death penalty, police civil liability, privacy rights, wrongful conviction and public policy, police reforms, and adult and juvenile system reforms.

**Pre-requisites:** ACLT 053

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, 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. describe the reasons and purposes of police reforms post Ferguson, Freddie Gray and George Floyd;
6. construct and evaluate arguments on legal and policy issues in the criminal justice system; and
7. 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 of 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

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

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- a. The death penalty
  - b. Wrongful conviction and public policy
  - c. Hate crime
  - d. Gun control
  - e. The right of privacy
  - f. Police civil liability
  - g. Domestic violence
  - h. Police reforms
  - i. Reforms to the adult and juvenile justice systems
- 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**

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

- Two testing instruments to include examinations and/or tests.
- One written 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.).

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 Criminal Justice Studies elective course.

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