

CRJU 114

Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

CRJU 114 – Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs: examines the history and development of national and international drug trafficking including the implementation of national and international laws governing controlling illegal substances. It also focuses on the identification of controlled dangerous substances and related paraphernalia as well as their effects, sources of selected drugs of abuse, and the economic impact on the economy.

Pre-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. discuss the nature of the drug problem in America;
2. appraise the social cost of drug abuse;
3. identify theories of drug abuse and crime;
4. discuss the history of drug abuse in America and other selected countries;
5. evaluate the formulation of current drug laws and policies;
6. analyze key topics in America drug control policy;
7. explain why controlled dangerous substances are so prevalent in American society;
8. explain the connection between controlled dangerous substances and organized crime;
9. summarize law enforcement's role in the drug control efforts in America;
10. compare and contrast biological, psychological and sociological explanations for addiction;
11. calculate the impact of treatment programs on drug use in America;
12. evaluate the impact of drug abuse on the future of the United States;
13. illustrate the economic impact on the United States economy;
14. identify the most common illicit street drugs, their common names, value and how they are typically packaged/distributed; and
15. identify the physical and physiological changes that occur with most common illicit street drugs.

Major Topics

- I. Nature of the drug problem in the United States
 - a. Overview of the drug crisis – home, school, work
 - b. Attitudes about drugs, drug abuse trends and social costs of drug abuse
 - c. Drug abuse and crime – theories
- II. History of drug abuse
 - a. Opium menace of the 1800's

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- b. Late nineteenth century and the twentieth century
 - c. Looking ahead
- III. Understanding drugs of abuse
 - a. Defining drugs
 - b. Impact of drug abuse
 - c. Dependence versus abuse
 - d. Drug categories
 - e. Identification of the most common illicit street drugs and their effects
- IV. The illicit drug trade
 - a. The business of illegal drugs
 - b. The economics of drug trafficking
 - c. Merchandising and distribution of illegal drugs
 - d. The international perspective
- V. Domestic drug production
 - a. Pharmaceutical drug industry and the drug approval dilemma
 - b. Adverse drug reaction
 - c. Domestic marijuana cultivation and clandestine laboratories
 - d. Pharmaceutical diversion
- VI. Drugs and crime
 - a. Predatory and violent crime
 - b. Police corruption and corruption in foreign countries
 - c. Money laundering
- VII. Organized crime and the drug trade
 - a. Defining organized crime
 - b. Drug gangs as organized crime
- VIII. Domestic drug trafficking organizations
 - a. Traditional organized crime – the Mafia
 - b. Outlaw motorcycle gangs, youth gangs, Jamaican posses, prison gangs
- IX. Foreign drug trafficking organizations
 - a. Colombian organized crime, Mexican drug traffickers
 - b. Narcoterrorism
 - c. Cuban and Asian drug traffickers
- X. The drug control initiative
 - a. Goals of drug control and drug laws
 - b. Federal drug enforcement and interdiction
 - c. Strategies for street-level enforcement
- XI. Critical issues in drug control
 - a. Zero tolerance and the war on drugs
 - b. Public policy issues
- XII. Legalizing drugs
 - a. Arguments for and against legalization
 - b. Experiences in other countries
 - c. Understanding drug control policy a. Issues related to supply and demand b. Legal issues
- XIII. Control through treatment and prevention
 - a. Treatment programs
 - b. Prevention initiatives
- XIV. Impact of controlled dangerous substances on the United States economy

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- a. Workplace issues
- b. Economic impact on pricing of various goods and services

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)

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.

Date Revised: 10/4/2022