

CRJU 101
Introduction to Criminal Justice
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

CRJU 101 – Introduction to Criminal Justice: explores the history, philosophy and social development of police, courts, and corrections in a democratic society. This course provides an overview of local, state, and federal agencies, and their operations, which comprise the criminal justice system.

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

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. relate the components of the criminal justice system to the collective goal of public safety in the United States and other industrialized countries;
2. analyze due process within the American criminal justice system with a focus on civil rights, women's rights, hate crimes, and minority groups throughout the United States and in relation to industrialized countries;
3. compare the major methods of crime measurement, including how the data is used in the criminal justice system and how it reports demographic information about offenders;
4. evaluate major criminological theories that attempt to explain criminal behavior from a socio-economic, racial, and cultural perspective;
5. examine the role of crime victims in the criminal justice system;
6. analyze the structure and role of law enforcement in a diverse society;
7. distinguish between the state and federal court system in America;
8. analyze sentencing disparities as they relate to gender, geographical area, race, and socio-economic status;
9. summarize current issues related to the inmate population, including its relationship to global incarceration rates;
10. define the goals and responsibilities of community corrections including trends focusing on re-entry and reduction of recidivism rates;
11. analyze the unique characteristics of juvenile justice and issues related to differences in race, gender, and socio-economic status of juvenile offenders;
12. correlate the discretion that is exerted throughout the criminal justice process with the importance of ethical decision-making at each step; and
13. find, evaluate, use, and cite appropriate academic resources in order to analyze a contemporary issue currently faced by the criminal justice system.

Major Topics

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

- I. Crime and justice in the United States and other industrialized countries
 - a. An institution of social control
 - b. Components of the criminal justice system
 - c. Importance of ethical decision-making/use of discretion throughout each step of crime process
 - d. Comparison of United States justice system to other industrialized countries
- II. Crime and its consequences
 - a. The elements and measurements of crime
 - b. Costs of crime
 - c. Demographics of offenders
 - i. Disproportionate representation of minorities (race, ethnicity, etc.)
 - ii. Impact of age, socio-economics and gender
 - iii. Hate crimes (sexual orientation and identity, religion, etc.)
 - d. Victimization trends, and victim demographics
- III. Criminological theory
 - a. Classical and neoclassical
 - b. Positive, biological, sociological and critical approaches
 - c. Explanations that focus on socio-economic status and race
- IV. The rule of law
 - a. Due Process
 - b. Substantive and procedural law focus on civil rights, women's rights, hate crimes, and minority groups throughout the United States and other industrialized countries
- V. American law enforcement
 - a. Structure, role and functions of police
 - b. Community policing
 - c. Recruitment and training (including efforts in hiring and maintaining a diverse workforce)
- VI. The court system
 - a. Types and purposes of each court
 - b. The stages of the trial process
 - c. Types and purposes of sentencing
 - d. Comparison of sentences to other industrialized countries
- VII. Institutional corrections
 - a. Organization and programming
 - b. Characteristics of the inmate population (race, age, gender, etc.)
 - c. Rights of inmates
 - d. Release policy and recidivism
 - e. Relationship to incarceration in other countries
- VIII. Community corrections
 - a. Goals and responsibilities
 - b. Parole and intermediate sentencing
- IX. Juvenile justice
 - a. Delinquency patterns and profile (including race, gender, socio-economic background)
 - b. Juvenile adjudication and corrections
- X. Diversity

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Course Requirements

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

- Two exams
- Two writing assignments, one of which will assess General Education Outcomes
- One class assignment requiring collaboration between students

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 an approved General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category. This course is also an approved General Education Diversity Course. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.

Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives with at least one assignment worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade

This course is a Criminal Justice core course.

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