

CRJU 202
Criminology
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

CRJU 202 – Criminology: introduces the student to the basic theories, fundamental facts and problems associated with the science of criminology. Emphasis is placed on providing a systematic basis for the study of criminals and criminal behavior as related to the criminal justice system.

Pre-requisites: ENGL 101 or consent of Department Chair

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. define the fundamental principles of criminology and the research methods used in conducting ethical research;
2. analyze crime data in terms of race, gender, ethnicity, age, and socio-economic status, derived from official data sets;
3. assess victimization theories on how they have influenced policies and criminal justice and societal viewpoints;
4. distinguish between the application of classical and choice theories of crime;
5. evaluate the components of trait theories;
6. analyze the components of social structure theories and relate their importance to the development of policies that address the needs of a diverse society;
7. differentiate between the components of social process theories and relate their importance to policies that support traditional institutions of social control;
8. summarize the basis of social conflict theories and their relationship to the development of policies that impact minorities in the criminal justice system;
9. synthesize the issues related to violent and property crime in society with the theoretical approaches discussed in this course;
10. compare and contrast white collar and organized crime and their impact on all strata of society;
11. analyze the convergence of individuals, ideas, values, social institutions and economics that results in the creation of public order crimes in this country; and
12. research and evaluate criminological theories finding, using, evaluating, and citing appropriate academic resources.

Major Topics

- I. Define criminology as a component of the criminal justice system
 - a. Historical perspective
 - b. Origins and functions of law

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For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- II. Crime trends and patterns
 - a. Official Statistics
 - b. Unofficial Records (Self-report surveys)
- III. Criminological theories
 - a. Classical and Neoclassical
 - b. Victimization Theories
 - c. Trait Theories
 - d. Social Structure Theories
 - e. Social Process Theories
 - f. Conflict Theories
- IV. Violent crime
 - a. Application to theories
 - b. Trends and patterns
- V. Property crimes
 - a. Application to theories
 - b. Trends and patterns
- VI. White collar and organized crime
 - a. Application to theories
 - b. Trends and patterns
- VII. Public order crimes
 - a. Application to theories
 - b. Trends and patterns
- VIII. Criminal justice policy
 - a. Individual theory impact on policies
 - b. Emerging policy implications

Course Requirements

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

- Two exams
- Two writing assignments
- One class assignment will be given that requires collaboration between students

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

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