

# **CRJU 250**

## **Ethics in Criminal Justice**

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

### **Description**

**CRJU 250 – Ethics in Criminal Justice:** explores ethical decision-making within both organizational and personal contexts in the criminal justice system. Students will explore key ethical theories, leadership principles, and democratic values while developing critical thinking skills to assess dilemmas that may lead to professional or personal misconduct. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking skills to analyze complex ethical dilemmas commonly encountered in law enforcement, courts, corrections, and policymaking while upholding social responsibility. Through case studies and applied scenarios, students will gain the tools to navigate ethical challenges and uphold integrity in criminal justice professions.

**Pre-requisites:** CRJU 101 and ENGL 101 or permission of the Criminal Justice Department Chair

### **Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. describe the importance of accountability and integrity to criminal justice professionals;
2. evaluate the ethical dilemmas encountered in this field;
3. analyze major theories of moral virtue and responsibility of ethical behavior in the criminal justice system;
4. distinguish between ethical and legal principles;
5. analyze how technology and media influence ethical decision-making in professional and personal contexts; and
6. evaluate justice issues using awareness of diverse identities and experiences.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Importance of Ethical Behavior in the Criminal Justice System
- II. Ethical Theory in Decision-Making
  - a. Deontology
  - b. Utilitarian
  - c. Egoism
  - d. Virtue Ethics
  - e. Ethics of Care
  - f. Moral Relativism
- III. Ethical Systems
  - a. Professional
  - b. Personal

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

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- c. Community/Social Responsibility
- IV. Challenges Facing Ethics and Morality in the System
  - a. Technology
  - b. Media Influence
- V. The Role of Identity and Experiences in Decision-Making
- VI. Professional Codes of Conduct

### **Course Requirements**

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

- Two exams with questions that require critical thinking such as essays and case studies
- Four written assignments

### **Other Course Information**

This course is a Criminal Justice Studies Program core course.

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