

## **CRJU 258**

### **Social Justice and the Criminal Justice System**

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

#### **Description**

**CRJU 258 – Social Justice and the Criminal Justice System:** examines the criminal justice system with a focus on social justice issues. The course identifies areas in which concepts of social justice intersect with and impact criminal justice decision making and processes. The course assesses potential improvements to the current system through an examination of social justice movements and criminal justice interventions.

**Pre-requisites:** CRJU 101

#### **Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. explain what social justice is and analyze its role in the criminal justice process;
2. provide examples of circumstances during which social justice issues impact criminal justice decision making;
3. explain how the law can contribute to attaining social justice;
4. describe the criminal justice system and its components in relation to other social institutions;
5. analyze criminal justice system practices that employ social exclusion and social justice; and
6. examine the impact of social media and traditional media outlets on issues related to social justice.

#### **Major Topics**

- I. Justice theories throughout history to the present
- II. Social justice ideologies and goals in relation to marginalized communities
- III. Social justice theory as applied to the criminal justice system (CJS)
- IV. Current social justice issues (social injustice) and the CJS
  - a. Law enforcement
  - b. Courts
  - c. Corrections
- V. Individual and organizational strategies for achieving social justice
  - a. Law enforcement
  - b. Courts
  - c. Corrections
- VI. Media impact on social justice in the CJS
- VII. Contemporary social movements

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

## **Course Requirements**

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

- A research project to be presented as an audio/visual presentation related to social justice movements and a proposal for societal development
- At least 2 Written Assignments: The individual faculty member will determine the specific number of assignments, but one such assignment should relate to current events and their relation to course materials

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.

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