

LGST 128

Civil Rights

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

LGST 128 – Civil Rights: examines civil rights and civil liberties within the framework of the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Supreme Court decisions. It covers the significant rights provided by the Bill of Rights as interpreted by the courts and the impact of the 14th Amendment on equal protection claims. Additionally, administrative, criminal and civil remedies for civil rights violations are discussed.

Pre-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 100)

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. define civil rights, civil liberties, equality, and discrimination under the U.S. Constitution;
2. analyze the historical development of civil rights under the U.S. Constitution;
3. identify the significance of the first amendment in public discourse and the free expression of ideas;
4. identify how the second amendment relates to individual gun ownership and governmental regulation of that right;
5. identify the historical roots of the 14th amendment and how our understanding of this amendment has changed in modern constitutional practice;
6. discuss the reproductive rights and freedoms under the 14th amendment and how the Supreme Court's view has changed on these ideas;
7. discuss the marriage rights and freedoms of persons under the 14th amendment;
8. identify key civil rights legislation in the 20th century and the relationship to the 14th amendment;
9. define the constitutional criminal protections afforded to those accused of a crime and how those rights have changed as a result of technological innovation;
10. analyze contemporary civil rights issues involving voting, immigration, policing, and discrimination; and
11. utilize appropriate technology for academic and legal research.

Major Topics

- I. Introduction to Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
 - a. Definitions of civil rights and civil liberties
 - b. Basic concepts

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

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- II. The Supreme Court
 - a. Functions
 - b. Impact
- III. U.S. Bill of Rights
 - a. History
 - b. First Amendment
 - c. Second Amendment
 - d. Fourth Amendment
 - e. Fifth Amendment
 - f. Sixth Amendment
- IV. 14th Amendment
 - a. History
 - b. Right to Privacy
 - i. Reproductive freedom
 - ii. Homosexual marriage
- V. Equal Protection of the Law
 - a. Racial Discrimination
 - b. Affirmative Action
 - c. Sexual Discrimination
 - d. Voting
- VI. Administrative, Criminal and Civil Remedies for Violation of Civil Rights
 - a. Title 42 U.S.C. Section 1983
 - b. Title 18 U.S.C. Section 242

Course Requirements

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

- One exam
- One written assignment to be determined by the individual faculty member, 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 an elective within the Criminal Justice Studies Program and the Legal Studies Program.

Date Revised: 10/21/2025

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