

COURSE OUTLINE

CRIM-200

Law Enforcement and The Community

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

A study of the relationship between police and the community with recommendations for ways of working together to reduce crime. Emphasis is placed on policing in a culturally diverse society. Prerequisite: CRIM-101. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the various organizational components of a typical law enforcement agency.
2. Describe the history of law enforcement and police-community relations programs.
3. Explain the development of the police role in today's society and the political dynamics of it.
4. Explain the importance of police authority and power and how their use improves law enforcement service.
5. Describe what "community-policing" means to the community and to the police and provide examples.
6. Identify the importance of a solid police-citizen partnership at both the departmental and individual officer levels.
7. Explain the critical importance of both verbal and nonverbal communication in dealing with the citizenry.
8. Explain the essential factors of discretionary decision-making from the police officer's perspective.
9. Explain the importance of maintaining a good police-press relationship and how one is achieved.
10. Explain the importance of maintaining a good police-youth relationship and the important factors and programs supporting it.
11. Explain the importance of maintaining a good relationship with the elderly population and the special challenges facing this group.
12. Describe the police role in dealing with dissenters, civil disobedients and rioters and how police-community relations can impact on them all.
13. Describe the role of lethal and non-lethal force in law enforcement and its impact on the police-community relationship.

Major Topics

- I. History of Law Enforcement
- II. Police Role
 - A. According to citizenry, each branch of government, and the police.
 - B. Police use of power and authority
 - C. Police Discretion
- III. Police - Community Relationship
 - A. Public Relations
 - B. Specific Police - Community Relations Programs
- IV. Concept of Community Policing
 - A. Rethinking of police officer's job
 - B. Empowering the Community
 - C. Successful Community Policing Programs
 - D. Use of Communications Skills to enhance the relationships with the Community.
- V. Police/News Media Relations
 - A. Press/Public Information Officer
 - B. Important link with community
- VI. Police relations with specified populations
 - A. The elderly
 - B. The youth
 - C. Civil disobedients and rioters
- VII. Police use of lethal and nonlethal force

Course Requirements

The student's grade will be based on several factors. Among these factors are two tests in addition to a mid-term examination and a final examination. Additionally, each student must complete a research paper using the resources of the library and other research sources.

Attendance is mandatory unless special permission to miss a class is granted by the instructor. Class participation is also given weight in determining the final grade.

Other Course Information

This course is a cultural diversity elective.

This course is a Social Science elective and an Arts and Science elective.