

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 70

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Effective: Fall 2004

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 70 — COMMUNITY RELATIONS — 3.00 units

Roles of the Administration of Justice practitioners and their agencies. Interrelationships and role expectations among various agencies and the public. Emphasis on the professional image of the system of Justice Administration and development of positive relationships between members of the system and the public.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. explain the structure and environment of the community as they apply to community/justice system interaction;
2. analyze community and human differences in response to specific interpersonal communication problems and articulate a solution to these differences both orally and in writing;
3. explain police procedures and philosophy to individuals and groups within the community;
4. discuss differences between various agencies of the criminal justice system and how these differences can create barriers between the system and the community;
5. demonstrate effective communication skills through role-playing and class participation

V. CONTENT:

- A. The structure of the community
 1. Power structure of the community
 2. Omnibus groups in the community
 3. Politics and crime prevention
- B. History of change in community relations in the administration of Justice
 1. Overview of problems of the criminal justice system – police, courts, corrections
 2. "Public" versus "community" relations
 3. Agency responsibility to the communities they serve
- C. Agency based community relations programs
 1. Description of on-going problems
 2. Analysis of community problems
- D. Human relationships and cultural considerations
 1. Attitudes creating barriers to communication
 2. Psychological aspects of community relations
 3. Special problems in the community
- E. Communication
 1. Verbal and non-verbal communication
 2. Listening skills
 3. Overcoming blocks to effective communication
- F. Community dynamics and the media
 1. Criminal justice – press relationships
 2. Policies and procedures of agencies
 3. Agency – community relationships
- G. Militant and dissident organizations
 1. Current trends
 2. Identification of organizations and leaders
 3. Philosophies and methods utilized by the criminal justice system
- H. Student culture and the justice system
 1. Discretionary decision making

- 1. Alternatives
- 2. Psychological impact
- J. The system image
 - 1. Law enforcement
 - 2. The courts
 - 3. Corrections
- K. New program development

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** - Seminar style
- B. **Guest Lecturers** -
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. Case studies
- E. Community-based field trips
- F. **Demonstration** - and role playing

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Visit a community organization and present a brief oral report analyzing its composition and political effectiveness.
- B. Student-led class discussion of the lack of uniformity in law enforcement
- C. Role play between a local minority group and a police agency
- D. Brief research project on the effectiveness of the parole system as it relates to community relations

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Papers
- 4. Projects

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Frequency of Evaluation
 - a. Attendance and participation will be evaluated daily.
 - b. Projects, papers and presentations will be due periodically throughout the term.
 - c. Quizzes will occur throughout the term; the midterm and final examination will appear at the midpoint and end of the term.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Radelet, Louisa *The Police and the Community*, MacMillan Publishing Company, 0.
- 2. Carter, David L., *The Police and the Community*, Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishers., 0.
- 3. Cox and Fitzgerald *Police in Community Relations*, McGraw Hill Publishing, 0.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: