

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 70

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Effective: Fall 2015

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 70 — COMMUNITY RELATIONS — 3.00 units

This course examines the complex, dynamic relationship between communities and the justice system in addressing crime and conflict with an emphasis on the challenges and prospects of administering justice within a diverse multicultural population. Topics may include the consensus and conflicting values in Culture, Religion, and Law.

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:

- A. Explain the history and evolution of American culture and its roots in a multicultural society Identify and explain issues that may pose potential conflicts between the community and the justice system, (police, courts and corrections). Identify and describe the strategies for the administration of justice in a diverse, multicultural society.

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
 - 4. Diversity/multiculturalism within the community
- 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 multicultural/diverse communities they serve
- C. Agency based community relations programs
 - 1. Description of on-going problems
 - 2. Analysis of community problems
 - 3. Is the program "top-down" from the agency to the community or is the community involved in the program's creation?
- 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 Strategies
 - 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 with diverse/multicultural groups within the community
- 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. Multicultural populations and the justice system
 - I. 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. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** - Seminar style
- C. **Guest Lecturers** -
- D. **Research** -
- E. Community-based field trips
- F. **Written exercises and case studies** -
- G. **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. Research Projects
- 4. Papers
- 5. Projects
- 6. Field Trips
- 7. Class Participation

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Attendance and participation will be evaluated daily.
- 2. Projects, papers and presentations will be due periodically throughout the term.
- 3. 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. Miller, L.S. *Community Policing : Partnerships for Problem Solving*. 7th ed., Wadsworth, Inc., 2014.
- 2. Kappeler, Victor, and Larry Gaines. *Community Policing: A Contemporary Perspective*. 6th ed., Routledge, 2012.
- 3. Shusta, MPA, Robert, Deena Levine, MA, Herbert Wong, Ph.D, Arron Olson, M.Ed, and Philip Harris, Ph.D. *Multicultural Law Enforcement: Strategies for Peacekeeping in a Diverse Society*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2010.
- 4. McNamara, Robert, and Ronald Burns. *Multiculturalism in the Criminal Justice System* . 1st ed., McGraw Hill Publishing, 2009.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: