



Broward Community College

Course Outline

STATUS: A

COMMON COURSE NUMBER: CJE2400

COURSE TITLE: Police Community Relations

CREDIT HOURS: 3

CONTACT HOURS BREAKDOWN:

Lecture/Discussion 48

Lab 00

Other 00

Contact Hours/Week 3

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: NONE

Corequisite: NONE

A consideration of the significance of establishing good working relationships between the police and the public including the complex factors that lead to successful police community relations.

General Education Requirements - Associate of Arts Degree, meets Area(s):

General Education Requirements - Associate in Science Degree, meets Area(s):

UNIT TITLES:

1. Purpose of Police Community Relations
2. The Structure of the Community
3. Minority Groups in the Community
4. The Criminal Justice System and the Community
5. Community Relations Programming

I. Course Overview:

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to develop an understanding of the need for improved police community relations; the structure of the community and how the community interacts with the criminal justice system; potential conflicts between the police and the community; and the basis for the development of community relations programs.

II. Units:

Unit 1. Purpose of Police Community Relations

General Outcome:

- 1.0 The students should be able to understand the importance of good police community relations.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 1.1 Define police community relations as the activities designed to make the police a part of the community, rather than just a punitive agency imposed on the public.
- 1.2 Describe the use of police discretion and authority and how the use of these police powers can impact police and community relations.
- 1.3 Describe the concept of shared power and the need for community involvement with the police, such as crime watch programs or citizen review boards.
- 1.4 Explain the role of the police officer as a "social agent" in the community.

Unit 2. The Structure of the Community

General Outcome:

- 2.0 The students should be able to identify the different elements of a community and how those different elements may impact police community relations.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 2.1 Identify the key elements of a community, such as geographic limits, environmental factors, economic, education and employment factors, life styles, and language groups.
- 2.2 Describe factors that make people different from each other, such as national origin, race, religion, family status, age, economics, and education.
- 2.3 Recognize that personal backgrounds and community structures impact the way a person or community may interact with police.
- 2.4 Explain how a police officer's personal and community background will impact the way he or she interacts with a specific community.

Unit 3. Minority Groups in the Community

General Outcome:

- 3.0 The students should be able to develop an understanding of the concerns of different minority groups and how those concerns impact police community relations.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 3.1 Explain the concepts of discrimination, prejudice, and bias.
- 3.2 Discuss that within a community there is competition for power and influence between different ethnic and racial groups.
- 3.3 Describe how poverty within a minority community may influence that community's view of the criminal justice system and the police.
- 3.4 Describe the need for effective minority recruitment within law enforcement as a means to improve police relations with a minority community.
- 3.5 Describe the special needs of youth and the elderly within a community.
- 3.6 Recognize the different groups that exist within our own community, and special needs or concerns those groups may have regarding the police.

Unit 4. The Criminal Justice System and the Community

General Outcome:

- 4.0 The students should be able to understand the role of the police officer as the primary representative of the criminal justice system within the community.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 4.1 Explain that public cooperation and voluntary compliance with law comes not through law but through positive human contacts.
- 4.2 Recognize that police officers are the primary contacts that members of the community have with the criminal justice system.
- 4.3 Describe what might increase hostility toward the police within a community, such as acts of brutality or rudeness.
- 4.4 Discuss the need for extensive training of police officers in human relation skills.
- 4.5 Describe the impact of stress of both the officer and the citizen and how that may impact relations.
- 4.6 Describe police concerns regarding police-citizen encounters and how citizens may help alleviate those concerns.
- 4.7 Discuss the role of the media in influencing community attitudes toward the police.

Unit 5. Community Relations Programming

General Outcome:

- 5.0 The students should be able to identify the many different types of programs designed to improve police community relations and how such programs evolve.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this unit, the students should be able to:

- 5.1 Discuss how political and funding concerns may impact the development of community relations programs.
- 5.2 Describe the need for effective citizen complaint handling procedures.
- 5.3 Discuss the need for media cooperation regarding community relations programs.
- 5.4 Identify and analyze several successful community policing programs, such as Neighborhood Crime Watch, Officer McGruff, D.A.R.E., etc.