Department:

Criminal Justice

Course Description:

This course examines issues in law enforcement in terms of police response, mandatory arrest, and policy formation. The course will focus on the areas of domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, and elderly abuse. The course provides an overview of each area as well as an examination of the infrastructure and interrelationship between them.

Course Competencies:

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

1. Explain the fundamental influx of crime into the criminal justice system and law enforcement response.
2. Explain policy formation related to domestic violence and describe the scope of the problem.
3. Describe fundamental interview and interrogation techniques in arrest practices and court disposition of domestic violence and child abuse or neglect cases.
4. Explain the mitigating and aggravating nature of crime factors with regard to pre-sentence investigations and victim impact statements.
5. Outline a framework for the future, including policy formation, funding sources, and the renovation of public and privatization of domestic violence arenas.

Course Content:

A. Violence in the Family
   1. Historical perspective
   2. The nature of law
   3. Definitions
   4. Cycle of violence
B. Causation and Victimization of Domestic Violence
   1. Diverse schools of thought
   2. Characteristics of perpetrators and victims
   3. Consequences of victimization on individuals and families
C. Law Enforcement Response
   1. Historical police reactions to domestic violence
   2. Standard mandatory arrest legislation and policy
   3. Implementation of mandatory arrest, trials, and tribulations
   4. The laws of restraining orders, arrest, and protection of victims
D. Making a Police Case: Evidence Collection in Domestic Violence
   1. Establishing probable cause and following established protocol
2. Involving and referral to social service agencies
3. Report writing and follow-up
4. Surviving the burnout factor

E. Child Abuse or Neglect
   1. Identification and definitions
   2. Civil and criminal actions
   3. Best interests of children in abusive or neglectful homes
   4. Mandated reporting

F. Law Enforcement Response to Child Abuse
   1. Streamlining the investigating process
   2. Testifying in court
   3. Basic child interviewing techniques
   4. Abuse report writing basics

G. SRS and Privatization
   1. Services provided for children in state custody
   2. Reform and current legislation

Learning Assessments:
Course competencies will be assessed by worksheets, assignments, case study reports, written papers, and exams.

Instructional Materials:

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.