

Hagerstown Community College
OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS DOCUMENT

COURSE: ADJ-215 – Use of Force in Criminal Justice

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR:

SEMESTER/YEAR:

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide students with basic information about the use of force by individuals employed within the criminal justice system. A study of the use of force including verbal and non-verbal skills to manage situations found in the criminal justice environment, introduction to and statutory authority for the use of force, force options, deadly force, and related legal issues. The course will include instruction in simulator scenario-based firearms training and several less-lethal force options available within the criminal justice field. Course will include examples of departmental use of force policies and legal aspects regarding use-of-force. Total of 45 hours of lecture.

TEXTBOOK: Klinger, David, Into the Kill Zone: A Cop’s Eye View of Deadly Force, Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Imprint, San Francisco, CA, 94103.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Student will define the term “deadly force”.
2. Student will define the term “reasonable force”.
3. Student will identify principles of good marksmanship such as stance, grip, breath control, trigger control and follow through.
4. During firearms exercises and drills or judgmental/decision making scenarios student will demonstrate safe and proper handling of handgun during firearms instruction
5. During firearms exercises and drills or judgmental/decision making scenarios student will demonstrate proper stance for handgun shooting positions, such as, standing, strong hand, support hand, two-handed, and kneeling
6. Student will identify effective communication skills in dealing with various types of persons, such as hostile, angry, hysterical, intoxicated, mentally ill, young, elderly, and racist.
7. Student will describe the basic techniques to defuse the crisis stress symptoms felt by a victim, such as acknowledging victim's ordeal, providing active listening, asking diversionary questions, and explaining options and procedures that will occur.