Crime and Justice Studies Course Descriptions

CJS 3301 Theories of Justice (3 semester hours) A survey of the basic theoretical rationales and perspectives concerning the concept of "justice" with selected readings from classical and contemporary theorists. (3-0) Y

CJS 3302 Criminology (3 semester hours) This course provides students with an introduction to the study of crime, criminals, and the reaction of the criminal justice system to both. It explores the interrelationships among law, policy, and societal conditions. Because these relationships are dynamic, criminology is an interdisciplinary investigation that integrates a variety of perspectives and approaches to understand the origins of crime and the rationale for and effectiveness of society's response to such crime. (Same as SOC 3360.) (3-0) T

CJS 3303 Criminal Justice (3 semester hours) This course will provide students with an examination of the various components of the criminal justice "system" and the nature and functions of various criminal justice agencies such as the police, courts, prosecution, and corrections. The course will also provide an examination of how constitutional rights and civil liberties affect the functioning of the criminal justice system and perhaps even constrain its effectiveness in delivering "justice." The course will analyze crime and the criminal justice process within a context in which the community at large, the general public, is viewed as the proper consumer of the criminal justice system and how the public could or should be involved in the process of society's response to crime and criminals. (Same as ISSS 3351.) (3-0) T

CJS 3304 Research Methods in Crime and Justice Studies (3 semester hours) Examines methods of crime and justice research. Topics include the nature of scientific inquiry, framing a research problem, choosing a research design, developing hypotheses, sampling designs, and measuring variables. Topics will be covered as students conduct their own study. Prerequisite: SOCS 3303 or STAT 1342. (3-0) Y

CJS 3305 Social Control & Criminal Sanctions (3 semester hours) This course will examine and analyze the various means by which society attempts to control the deviant and criminal conduct of its members. Social control encompasses both formal criminal sanctions and informal mechanisms and a variety of institutions and social processes that are designed to deter inappropriate conduct if possible and/or punish and reform such conduct when it does occur. Moreover, social control has evolved considerably over time and various social control philosophies and techniques have been prevalent in one time frame but not in others. (Same as SOC 3332.) (3-0) T

CJS 3306 Criminal Law (3 semester hours) This course examines the statutory basis of crime and the legal requirements surrounding "mens rea" and legally permissible defenses permitted under criminal due process. Emphasis is placed on both criminal statutes and case law. (3-0) T

CJS 3310 Youth Crime and Justice (3 semester hours) This course examines the concept of juvenile delinquency as a distinct type of criminal activity from that committed by adults. The course will also critically assess the juvenile justice system that has evolved to handle juvenile crime as opposed to the criminal justice system which handles criminal offenses committed by adults. Major course topics will include a) the historical roots of delinquency and the juvenile justice system, b) delinquency measurement through official and unofficial statistics, c) the various explanations and theories of delinquency, and d) the socio-demographic correlates of delinquency status. (Same as SOC 3362.) (3-0) R

CJS 3311 Crime and Justice Policy (3 semester hours) This course provides an introduction to crime and the efforts to control crime through public policy. Although crime is most often committed by private persons against individual victims, crime is a public problem and society's reaction to crime and criminals is one of the most controversial areas of public policy. Public policy surrounding crime will be examined in a variety of crime and justice contexts. Such areas as crime control, deterrence and incapacitation, gun control, law enforcement, and court processes are just a few of the areas in which public opinion and policy are in current controversy and debate. (Same as SOC 3361.) (3-0) R

CJS 3312 Drugs and Crime (3 semester hours) This course provides students with a survey of the historical context of the legislative initiatives that have been attempted to combat the use of drugs, the relationship between drug use/abuse and crime, and the public policy problem surrounding the control of drugs. Topics include 1) a historical analysis of the emergence of illicit drugs and the various laws that were passed to control them, 2) a criminological analysis of the relationship between drugs (i.e., use/abuse & control) and the crime problem, 3) a sociology of law analysis of the "War on Drugs" that began under the Reagan administration, and 4) a policy analysis of the alternative means available to deal with the drugs-crime problem (i.e., legalization, decriminalization, interdiction, tougher criminalization). (Same as ISSS 3350.) (3-
CJS 3313 Police and Society (3 semester hours) Examination of the central issues of enforcing law in society with emphasis placed on both internal organizational issues of police administration and external enforcement operations. (Same as SOC 4362.) (3-0) R

CJS 3314 Politics of Law Enforcement (3 semester hours) Examines issues related to the accountability of the police to the electorate through the political process. Focuses on the governmental setting for police work, police policies and practices, and current political issues in municipal police agencies. (Same as SOC 4365.) (3-0) R

CJS 3315 Race, Ethnicity, and Justice (3 semester hours) This course examines how race and ethnicity pose differential risks for criminal behavior in conjunction with differential justice system responses to crime and criminals in minority communities. (3-0) R

CJS 3316 Corrections (3 semester hours) The policies, practices, and problems of the correctional system are traced historically with an emphasis on contemporary problems surrounding the incarceration of criminal populations in jails and prisons. (3-0) R

CJS 3317 Criminal Prosecution and Court Process (3 semester hours) An examination of the decision-making, politics, and processes of bringing criminal defendants to trial and the constitutional system of criminal due process under which criminal law is practiced. (3-0) R

CJS 3318 Community-Based Sanctions (3 semester hours) A survey of the policies, practices, and procedures of supervising convicted offenders under probation or on parole in various community-based programs. (3-0) R

CJS 3319 Comparative Justice Systems (3 semester hours) A survey of the differing policies, practices, and procedures of crime and justice cross-nationally. Special emphasis will be devoted to U.S. / Mexico comparisons, while additional emphasis will be placed on such comparisons as U.S. / Canada and U.S. / England. (3-0) R

CJS 4396 Selected Topics in Crime and Justice Studies (3 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. Examples include: "Capital Punishment," "White Collar Crime," and "Gun Control." May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). (3-0) R

CJS 4V97 Independent Study in Crime and Justice Studies (3 semester hours) Independent study under a faculty member's direction. May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). Consent of instructor required. ([1-6]-0) S

CJS 4V98 Internship in Crime and Justice Studies (3 semester hours) May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). Consent of instructor required. ([1-6]-0) S

CJS 4V99 Senior Honors in Crime and Justice Studies (3 semester hours) For students conducting independent research for honors theses or projects. May be repeated for credit, but no more than 6 hours may be taken by a student under this number. ([1-6]-0) S

Interdisciplinary Studies Courses Applicable to Crime and Justice Studies

ISGS 3312 Women in Management
ISGS 3331 Female and Male: Changing Roles
ISSS 4362 Courts and the Struggle for Equality
ISSS 3350 Drugs and Crime
ISSS 3351 Criminal Justice and the Community