

Criminology and Justice Studies

Faculty: Krimmel, *Chair;* Fenwick, Fradella, Lengyel, Payne

The Department of Criminology and Justice Studies works collaboratively to investigate, understand, and solve social problems related to crime, law, and justice. Through a social scientific lens, students and faculty examine issues surrounding the necessity for creating and maintaining social order while preserving individual freedoms in a constitutional democracy. The department seeks to develop informed and concerned citizens who can critically analyze and problem solve justice related issues with a genuine concern for social responsibility, fairness, and equality. Through this curriculum, combined with TCNJ's college wide program of liberal learning, we strive to sharpen students' reasoning, ethical decision making, problem solving, and communication abilities. Students educated within this framework should be able to contribute to the justice professions through evaluation, research, ethical practice, and dedicated service.

The department seeks to achieve this mission through its curriculum which emphasizes the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills with respect to each of the following: 1) the structure and organizational behaviors of the justice system; 2) the theories underpinning normative socialization and both formal and informal social control; 3) the roles policing, courts, corrections, and laws play in contributing to social control; 4) the practical and ethical complexities of the roles of justice professionals; 5) the ways in which rhetoric, politics, and contemporary values affect law and justice; 6) the genesis of legal systems and their developmental evaluation; 7) the legislation, practice and impact of substantive and procedural law on justice; 8) macro and micro level criminology theories regarding the etiology of crime, criminality, and delinquency; 9) the measurement, detection, and prevention of crime, criminality, and delinquency; 10) the research, planning, and evaluation methods used to expand knowledge in the field; 11) the ways in which science and technology are used by and contribute to the justice system; 12) the international variations on systems of law and social control and comparative criminology; 13) the development and refinement of communication skills both orally and in writing with particular emphasis on persuasive argumentation supported by logic, legal precedent, and scholarly research; and 14) the practical application of all of this knowledge in ways that promote active leadership that effectuates positive change in the agencies of law, law enforcement, rehabilitation, governmental service, academia, and research.

Students who successfully complete the required curriculum in the Department of Criminology and Justice Studies receive the degree of Bachelor of Science.

Requirements for the Major

Twelve course units in Criminology and Justice Studies courses including LWJ 100, 200, 201, 202, 205, 300, 301, 370*, 415, 422, 460, and one LWJ option. Students must also take one course unit of mathematics, specifically STA 115.

**Another 370 level advanced criminology course may be substituted for LWJ 370.*

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for the Department of Criminology and Justice Studies. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses:

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standards in their “critical content courses”: LWJ 100 (C-); 2.0 GPA.
- Transfer into the program from another program within the College is based upon the following performance standards in the “foundation course”: LWJ 100 (C-).
- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0 in courses for the program.

Criminology and Justice Studies

Students should always consult their advisers when planning courses for future years. Also supplements to this online bulletin will be available on an ongoing basis.

Suggested First-Year Course Sequence

FSP	First Seminar	1 course unit
LWJ	100/Justice and Social Control	1 course unit
LWJ	200/Policing Civil Societies	1 course unit
LWJ	201/Courts and Judicial Process	1 course unit
WRI	102/Academic Writing (if not exempted)*	1 course unit
	Foreign Language (if not exempted)*	1 course unit
STA	115/Statistics	1 course unit
	Liberal Learning	1 course unit

**It is recommended that students exempted from these courses take other liberal learning courses.*

Accelerated Graduate Degree Program

In cooperation with the Graduate School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University, the department sponsors a program of study leading to both Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees in criminal justice in four-and-one-half years. Selected students will complete their first three years of study at The College of New Jersey and transfer to Rutgers Graduate School of Criminal Justice for the final three semesters. Courses taken at the graduate school will be applied to fulfill the undergraduate requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree from The College of New Jersey (conferred after completing senior year) and to fulfill the graduate school requirements for the Rutgers Master of Arts degree. Requirements: by the end of the third year, candidates must have a 3.2 GPA or above; completed all general education and elective requirements; satisfactorily completed the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and met all admissions requirements for the MA program at Rutgers; and successfully competed in a comprehensive graduate degree program examination administered by the department’s faculty. (This program is for students who begin their academic career at The College of New Jersey as freshmen.)

Graduate and Legal Studies

Traditionally, the department has had a significant number of its majors apply for and be accepted into graduate or law school. As a result, members of the faculty have been assigned to seek out, identify, and mentor students (both majors and minors) who indicate an interest in law school or graduate studies.

Internships in Law and Justice

Adviser: Lengyel

The department has a dynamic internship program for majors and minors. The program matches each student's internship interest with a field placement. The program is academically rigorous since, in addition to the work-site activities as an intern, students are required to complete a challenging research report on which they are graded. Typical internship sites are the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, the New Jersey Department of Insurance, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Mercer County Prosecutor's and Public Defender's Office, federal and state law enforcement agencies, and the Juvenile Justice Commission. This program is open to seniors and juniors with GPAs of 2.5 and above.

LWJ 399/Internship in Criminology and Justice Studies may be taken after students have completed 12 units of the minor and meet the other requirements for an internship (i.e., junior/senior status and a 2.5 GPA).

Criminology and Justice Studies Minor

Students participating in the department's minor are required to take the following five courses:

LWJ 100/Justice and Social Control	1 course unit
LWJ 205/Criminology	1 course unit
LWJ 415/Constitutional Criminal Procedure	1 course unit
LWJ 422/Substantive Criminal Law	1 course unit

One of the following:

LWJ 200/Policing Civil Societies	1 course unit
LWJ 201/Courts and Judicial Process	1 course unit
LWJ 202/History and Philosophy of Corrections	1 course unit

Note: Students will be required to receive permission from the department chairperson to participate in the minor and must submit appropriate declaration forms to the registrar's office. All courses must be taken at The College of New Jersey.

Forensic Science Concentration

The Department of Criminology and Justice Studies is working in collaboration with the School of Science, Department of Chemistry, in the creation of a Forensics Concentration. Students should consult with the chairpersons of the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Criminology and Justice Studies as they plan their appropriate concentration.

COURSES

LWJ 100/Justice and Social Control

1 course unit

(every semester)

Students will explore the historic need in societies to shape and control the behavior of their members so that they conform to established group norms. The course will examine the complex interaction between factors such as culture, law, power, and equity that contribute to the maintenance of social order. It will address the development of legal systems from the social science perspectives of anthropology (primitive law) and sociology (sociology of law); investigate the nature of normative social control (sociological theory relative to conformity, conflict, and power); and explore, in both a historical and contemporary vein, the development and maturation of formal justice systems (enforcement, adjudication, and corrections) which act coercively against rule violators.

LWJ 200/Policing Civil Societies**1 course unit**

(every semester)

Traces the development of modern-day policing in civil societies from the 18th century through modern times. At the core of this course is the study of the interplay between citizens and the police. It is at this juncture, where citizens and the police interact, that misunderstandings develop, relationships are formed, problems are solved, and future plans are designed. This course also considers the problems that police face due to misunderstandings of their role including corruption and other forms of deviance. Moreover, the course considers theories of modern police practice and reform efforts as well as the development and construction of police ethics.

LWJ 201/Courts and Judicial Process**1 course unit**

(every semester)

Prerequisite: LWJ 100

The specific learning goals of the course are designed to provide a framework, both philosophically and sociologically, upon which students in the major and minor begin to build their knowledge base about law and social control. This course will provide this basic framework by giving students the fundamental understandings of what law is, how it operates, and the roles of courts as an agent of social control. Specifically, this course contributes to meeting the following objectives in the departmental mission statement: (1) the structure and organizational behaviors of the justice system; (2) the philosophical, sociological, and psychological theories underpinning social control; (3) the roles civil and criminal courts play in contributing to social order; (4) the practical and ethical complexities of the roles of justice professionals; (5) the ways in which rhetoric, politics, and contemporary values affect law and justice; and (6) the genesis of legal systems and their developmental evolution.

LWJ 202/History and Philosophy of Corrections**1 course unit**

(every semester)

Prerequisite: LWJ 100

In an age where incarceration has become the protocol of punishment for all types of criminals, we see the emergence of a number of pressing social, economic, and racial issues. This course addresses these issues by understanding the basic history of correctional thought and practice, through to the present day trends in corrections. After laying this initial groundwork, this course will examine the different types of incarceration and their basic fundamental purpose to serve the corrections system. It is important to understand these concepts through many different academic lenses; i.e., economics, psychology, sociology, and public administration, and this spectrum of exploration will provide sufficient knowledge to begin to understand how this complex and varying systems works.

LWJ 205/Criminology**1 course unit**

(every semester)

A general introduction to the study of criminal behavior from an interdisciplinary perspective. The main focus is on the classical and contemporary theories developed over the past two hundred years to explain and predict criminal behavior in society. The propositions, assumptions, empirical validity, and policy implications of these criminological theories, as well as the social context in which they were developed, will be examined. In addition, the ability of these theories to explain crime rates across different countries and cultures will be examined. Other significant issues in criminology such as the measurement and extent of crime, the role of demographics (age, race, gender, social class) in the causation of and reaction to crime, and explanations of specific crime types such as substance abuse and white collar crime will also be discussed.

LWJ 255/Legal Problems in the Domestic Setting**1 course unit**

(every semester)

This course is designed to immerse students into the study of the most difficult and sensitive problematic areas our society faces on a daily basis. This is the study of domestic conflict. By virtue of court decisions and the enactment of statutes, family law attempts to resolve and regulate people in their most difficult situations and under tumultuous circumstances, and with the most at stake. Through the study of court decisions, examinations of existing legislation and scholarly writings, students gain insight into the dynamics of the domestic setting. Strong emphasis is placed on societal pressures and traditions as they impact on the courts and legislation. This course is designed to encourage students to critically analyze the current state of family law with a scrupulous eye, and then find ways in the future for change. Emerging from this, students are able to criticize family law and expand ways to improve it.

LWJ 256/Women in the Criminal Justice System**1 course unit**

(annually)

Prerequisite: LWJ 100

This course offers an understanding of the treatment of women as professionals, litigants, victims, and offenders in the justice system. It examines what happens to women in the criminal justice system, how that is related to issues of social inequality, and what alternatives are available using a social justice framework. Because any discussion of women, crime, and justice must acknowledge both the diversity of women and the diversity of crimes and conditions under which they are made and enforced, the course will look at all issues through a constantly developing and changing/race/class/gender/sexual orientation perspective.

LWJ 300/Research Methods**1 course unit**

(every semester)

Prerequisites: LWJ 100, STA 115

Focus on principles of research and their important role in the prevention, containment, and amelioration of problems associated with crime. These methods will also introduce different criminological theories and their contributions to the criminal justice system. These methods and theories will culminate in the understanding of criminological research methods in a real world environment. Aside from gaining this knowledge through actual recordable and observable subjects, we will also take our knowledge a step further and recognize the importance of good research and planning techniques to ensure the validity of our actual research/study. By understanding the limits of some theories and adaptability of others we will learn the best and most effective ways to create, record, code, and assess research in the most valid and effective way. At the culmination of this class, we will have learned how to conceptualize what to measure, how to sample, experimental designs, different methods of data collection, data analysis through the use of SPSS, and ultimately, how to write a research proposal.

LWJ 301/Foundations of Advocacy and Reasoning**1 course unit**

(every semester)

Prerequisites: LWJ 100, LWJ 201

This course is designed to explore the ways in which rhetoric, politics, and contemporary values affect law and justice, as well as understanding the development and refinement of communication skills both orally and in writing, with particular emphasis on persuasive argumentation supported by logic, legal precedent, and scholarly research. The skills developed in this course are the basis for further advancement in the upper level courses which deal with writing, especially "Research Methods" and "Policy Analysis."

LWJ 302/Ethical Foundations in Criminology**1 course unit**

(annually)

The purpose of this course is to integrate personal morals and ethics and basic ethical and philosophical tenets with practical criminal justice considerations. To that end, the course will cover the following: basic ethics and philosophy, decision making in criminal justice, racism and discrimination, ethical issues in policing, ethical issues in corrections, ethical concerns related to defense attorneys/prosecutors/the courts, ethics in punishment/sentencing, ethical problems in criminal justice research, and white collar crime.

The study of ethics is not so much about finding answers, but about raising questions. If students leave this course thinking more critically about how and why criminal justice practitioners make decisions, then this course will have fulfilled its objectives.

LWJ 303/White-Collar Crime

1 course unit

(occasionally)

An investigation and analysis of white-collar crime in American society. Based on the major classic and contemporary writings in this area of law violation, this course is designed to explore white-collar crime in relation to the political economy, corporate and government organization, the legal system, and structural and cultural features of the workplace.

LWJ 304/Victims in the Criminal Justice System

1 course unit

(occasionally)

The discipline of victimology has developed quite recently out of the social sciences of sociology and criminology. In historic terms, concern for the victim has been a major consideration in society. In contemporary times, however, the state has assumed surrogate victim status, and, as a result, individual victims have been relegated to the role of witnesses in their cases. This course explores the traditional role of the victim as an agent of social control: one who alerts the community to norm violations, establishes his or her status as a victim, and negotiates a settlement for the wrong.

LWJ 330/Forensic Toxicology, Drugs, and the Law

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: Junior or senior, or permission of the instructor

This course is designed to expose students to the basic principles of drug actions on the human body and the implications of drug use for the criminal justice system. This is a science-based course which focuses on the pharmacological and toxicological characteristics of commonly abused drugs. Principles stressed include anatomy and physiology relevant to drug absorption, metabolism, and excretion; routes of administration, and mechanism of action for popular drugs of abuse; receptor theory and central nervous system reactions to various neurotransmitters; and both acute and long-term effects of drugs of abuse on the human body.

LWJ 340/International Terrorism

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course will utilize an interdisciplinary approach to explore terrorism, with an emphasis on criminological theories. Both domestic and international extremism and terrorism will be examined historically, sociologically, and psychologically. Concepts that will be incorporated into the discussion include the influence of law and culture, the country's historical response to radical social movements, and the influence of media coverage. In addition, we will consider current efforts to investigate and prevent terrorism. The effects of the current "war on terror" will be analyzed within the frame work of the United States' wars on poverty and drugs.

LWJ 345/The Trial Process

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: LWJ 100 and 201

The United States justice system centers around the legal trial. Using weekly role-playing exercises in simulated courtroom situations, this course explores pretrial and trial techniques with an emphasis on procedural, evidentiary, tactical, and ethical problems experienced by lawyers, witnesses, and parties as part of the legal trial process. Mock-trial simulations require students to engage in all aspects of the trial process: voir dire, opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, and closing arguments. Special attention is paid to the rules of evidence governing relevance, hearsay, scientific evidence, chain-of-custody, demonstrative evidence, and expert testimony.

LWJ 370/Advanced Criminology: Juvenile Delinquency and Justice **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisite: LWJ 205

This course is designed to introduce students into an area of criminology which deals with a special population of offenders, the juveniles. This course will identify many different facets of this particular system of criminal justice. It will explore the motives of juvenile crime and their characteristics in hopes to assist students into understanding the psyche of a juvenile offender. This course will not only deal with some psychological and environmental factors of juvenile crimes, it will also deal with the entities and functions of the juvenile justice system, including arrest, adjudication, sentencing recidivism and more. Students must understand the importance of the juvenile justice system and the impact that these juveniles have on the criminal justice system as a whole. These young offenders, if not properly dealt with, could become long term and chronic offenders. Understanding juvenile crime can lead to the “nipping of the bud” of these types of offenders who would eventually create criminal disturbances in the future. Juvenile crime is a crucial part of the criminal justice system as a whole as well as society and the quality of life for those in that society.

LWJ 371/Advanced Criminology: Comparative Criminology **1 course unit**
(annually)

Prerequisite: LWJ 205

The comparative analysis of law, crime, and justice in Western and non-Western societies. Attention will focus on crime trends in the postwar period and linkages with the socio-economic structure, culture, lifestyles, routine activities, the physical environment, and the “web of opportunity for crime.” Implication for theory construction and public policy will be drawn.

LWJ 391/Independent Study in Criminology and Justice Studies **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisites: Criminology and Justice Studies major and permission of instructor

For advanced students wishing to pursue a special area of interest in criminology and justice studies. Students develop a proposal around a sophisticated research design including problems definition, hypotheses, methodology, etc. to complete a comprehensive study. Topic and research design developed in consultation with a faculty adviser.

LWJ 399/Internship in Criminology and Justice Studies **1 course unit**
(every semester)

(by arrangement/may be repeated for credit)

LWJ 415/Constitutional Criminal Procedure **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisites: LWJ 201, LWJ 301

Students will clearly understand the importance of individual rights and liberties as established by the Federal Bill of Rights. Special and specific attention will be directed to the rights of those accused of the commission of a crime in the state and criminal justice systems of this country. Emphasis will initially be placed on the strong presumption of innocence until proven guilty in a court of law in the American system of justice. Through a comprehensive reading of court decisions, students see both sides of a particular issue, the impact of a decision and the many players in the Criminal Justice System. Last, but far from least, students will be able to see the strong emphasis placed on individual rights in the past, present, and future. Students will understand that the Bill of Rights protects every individual from arbitrary and capricious conduct of the government as we live our daily lives.

LWJ 422/Substantive Criminal Law

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisites: LWJ 100 and LWJ 201

This course exposes students to the limits of criminal law not only from an academic point of view, but also from a practical and legal viewpoint with a focus on constitutional, jurisdictional, and organizational behavioral restraints on the law. This course turns to a study of the basic elements of all crimes and the theoretical bases for imposing a criminal liability. Those principles are then explored in detail in an applied manner via the study of law regulating crimes against the person (e.g., homicides, sex crimes, assaults and batteries. etc.). All crimes are covered from an interdisciplinary perspective which integrates public policy issues and research from the humanities and social sciences into the study of crime. The major criminal defenses are also covered, again with an emphasis on public policy and psychology.

LWJ 440/Laboratory and Field Analysis in Forensic Investigation

1 course unit

(annually)

This course will advance the student's understanding of the theory and fundamental principles of forensic science and take the theory out of the classroom and into the laboratory. Students will learn the scientific basis of various aspects of forensic scientists' work through lectures and "hands-on" laboratory exercises. Case studies and crime scene simulations will demonstrate the application and basis of scientific principles to forensic science.

LWJ 445/Forensic Psychology

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 101, junior or senior standing, or permission of instructor

An interdisciplinary examination of the relationships between clinical psychology and the legal system. Students are first exposed to the constructs of dynamic psychology, psychiatric assessment and treatment, and the nomenclature of mental disorders. Then, the class explores the medicalization of deviance when dealing with the mentally ill offender (especially in contexts of the insanity and diminished capacity defenses) and the mentally incompetent person under the civil law (especially civil commitment, guardianship, and conservatorship). Legal and ethical issues that face both the clinician and legal counsel are explored.

LWJ 450/Principles of Forensic Medicine

1 course unit

Prerequisite: BIO 181 or 185; or criminology and justice studies major or minor status with senior class standing; or permission of the instructor

This multimedia course examines the various ways the medical profession contributes to the criminal justice system using lecture, slide presentations, and films. After a historic overview, the course focuses on forensic pathology and its role in the medico-legal investigation of death via post-mortem examinations. Study of the autopsy includes means of identification, thanatology, and thanatoetiology of unexpected natural deaths, accidental deaths, suicides, and homicides. Special attention is paid to deaths by gunshot wound, sharp force injury, blunt force trauma, and asphyxiation. Forensic examination of living people is also covered with regard to selected crimes such as sexual assault, traffic offenses, child abuse, and drug crimes. No natural sciences background is required or presumed beyond a fundamental knowledge of general biology.

LWJ 460/Senior Capstone in Policy Analysis

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisites: LWJ 300, LWJ 301

This course is designed to further expand the student's knowledge of exactly how things effect the flow of crime and its prevention within the community. This course will deal with the creation, application, evaluation, and revamping of public policy. By understanding how these public policies aim to perform a specific task to the community, students will learn the most effective and feasible ways to create policy as well as the most valuable ways to implement and enforce these policies and the underlying factors which trigger the creation of such policies.