

Note: *Beginning in academic year 2009-2010, courses in Criminology carry the prefix CRI, prior to that, the course prefix was LWJ. Students normally may not take a course twice, once with a LWJ prefix and again with a CRI prefix.*

CRI 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.

CRI 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.

CRI 201/Courts and Judicial Process

1 course unit

(every semester)

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 our 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.

CRI 202/History and Philosophy of Corrections

1 course unit

(every semester)

This course traces the history of correctional thought and practice through to the present day. After laying this initial groundwork, this course will examine the different types of incarceration at the local, state, and federal levels. Alternatives to incarceration will also be explored in this course.

CRI 203/Applied Criminal Procedure

1 course unit

(every semester)

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. 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.

CRI 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.

CRI 210/Principles of Forensic Science

1 course unit

(every semester)

An overview of the process of criminal investigations and the scientific and technical methods used to analyze evidence. The focus is on recognition, collection, preservation and analysis of physical evidence. Students will be presented with various criminalistics techniques utilized in the analysis of evidence from a non-science major perspective with the presumption that students do not have technical backgrounds (i.e. chemistry, biology and/or physics).

CRI 256/Women in the Criminal Justice System

1 course unit

(occasionally)

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.

CRI 300/Crimes and Offenses

1 course unit

(every semester)

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., homicide, rape, and assault and battery).

CRI 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.

CRI 304/Victimology

1 course unit

(every semester)

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. This course explores topics such as developmental victimology, correlates of becoming a victim of various crimes, and the emergence of victims' rights at the state and federal levels.

CRI 305/Criminology and Mental Health

1 course unit

(occasionally)

This course offers an examination of the intersection of the mentally ill and the criminal justice system. The course will explore how law enforcement interacts with the mentally ill and the challenges that are presented to local communities in holding the mentally ill in jail and how to divert the mentally ill from jail into case management. The issues pertaining to the mentally ill offender incarcerated within state prison systems will also be examined. The confluence of mental disorders and substance abuse issues will also be examined. Finally, the balance between the protection of the public and the welfare of the mentally ill offender will be considered.

CRI 306/Research Methods

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisites: CRI 100 (with C or better) and STA 115 (with C+ or better)

This course focuses on principles of research design, database management, and applied quantitative analysis. Elements of research design include unit(s) of analysis, measurement, and sampling. Moreover, pre-experimental, quasi-experimental, and experimental designs are evaluated with respect to structure and threats to validity. Database management and applied quantitative analysis will be explored using the personal computer. Students will learn to employ SPSS, SAS, and/or Excel for data storage, variable transformation, and applied statistical analysis. Applied statistical analyses will consist of summary measures, confidence interval estimation, contingency tables, correlation, and applied univariate linear regression.

CRI 340/International Terrorism

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: CRI 205

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.

CRI 350/Advanced Criminology: Juvenile Delinquency and Justice

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: CRI 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.

CRI 351/Advanced Criminology: Comparative Criminology

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: CRI 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.

CRI 352/Advanced Criminology: Race and Crime

1 course unit

(every semester)

(same as AAS 353)

Prerequisite: CRI 205

This course is a critical examination of the linkage between race and crime in America. The course will focus on four major areas: race and the law, race and criminological theory, race and violent crime, and myths and facts about race and crime. Through critical examination of readings and official statistics, students will come to understand the complexity of the relationship between race and crime within the American Criminal Justice System and broader social context.

CRI 370 Special Topics in Criminology

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: CRI 205 or 301

The Department of Criminology seeks to shape students who become informed citizens able to analyze critically and problem solve justice related issues with a genuine concern for social responsibility, fairness and equity. To that end, the department offers coursework that is current and relevant to today's society. For example, an important current issue in today's society is the changing landscape of urban life and the resulting proliferation of street gangs. To bring this issue into the classroom, the department will, on occasion, offer topics courses that address pertinent social issues related to crime such as "Gangs in America: Past and Present."

CRI 391/Independent Study in Criminology

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisites: Criminology students

For advanced students wishing to pursue a special area of interest in law and justice. 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.

CRI 399/Internship in Criminology

variable course units

(every semester)

(by arrangement/may be repeated for credit)

CRI 401/The Washington Center

2 course units

(every semester)

Prerequisite: CRI 300

The Washington Semester Program affords students the opportunity to pursue internships, course work, and enrichment activities during a semester in the Washington, D.C. area. Programs are provided by the Washington Center and the Washington Internship Institute but the student earns TCNJ credit for the semester.

CRI 498/Senior Capstone in Policy Analysis

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: CRI 306 with a grade of C or better

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.