

Criminal Justice Course Descriptions

CJ 120 Introduction to Criminal Justice (3)

Prerequisite: None

A survey of the criminal justice system and prerequisite for all criminal justice courses; examines the criminal justice process, including police, courts, and corrections; familiarizes students with theories of crime; highlights contemporary issues and places special emphasis on tribal criminal justice.

CJ 220 Probation, Parole, and Intermediate Sanctions (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Covers the differences between probation, parole, and intermediate punishments within the Criminal Justice System. Examines contemporary treatment options for offenders, and the functions of jails in modern society.

CJ 226 Introduction to Criminal Investigations (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Broad examination of the basic principles of a criminal investigation.

CJ 230 Criminal Law (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

A critical examination of the development and function of Western Criminal Law; analyzes current definitions of criminal acts and omissions, defenses and justifications in the social and legal society of the United States; illustrates the development of legal interpretations of criminal statutes through the use of current and historical U.S. Supreme Court and state court decisions.

CJ 240 Policing and Police-Community Relations (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Examination of the past, present, and future role of police in western society; included are the internal and external influences on police work, and the social and individual effects of police work in Western society.

CJ 242 Investigations I (3)

Prerequisites: CJ 120 & CJ 226

Advanced criminal investigation techniques including crime scene recreation, and fingerprint identification and collection. Students will complete practical exercises to demonstrate investigation techniques.

CJ 245 Multicultural Policing (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

An examination of the influence of race, culture, and ethnicity on law enforcement and the communities they serve. Emphasis placed on gangs, immigrants, Native Americans, and cross-cultural communication.

CJ 246 Investigations II (3)

Prerequisites: CJ120, CJ 226, CJ 242

Advanced criminal investigation techniques including blood stain analysis, crime scene photography, and victim/witness/suspect interviewing. Students will complete practical exercises to demonstrate investigation techniques.

CJ 250 Criminological Theory (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

An examination of the major criminological schools of thought, to include the prominent theorists within each school. Criminal motivation and the application of criminal law are reviewed and applied to criminal justice policies and practices.

CJ 255 Cybercrime (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Overview of computer crime and its investigation. Includes an analysis of current crime rates and trends.

CJ 260 Minorities in the Criminal Justice System (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

This course examines issues relating to the concept of marginalized groups and their roles in the criminal justice system. Each group is examined from their perspective roles in the criminal justice system as: employees, victims, offenders, and those under correctional control.

CJ 262 Women in the Criminal Justice System (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Examination of the roles of women in the Criminal Justice System, including offenders, victims, and criminal justice professionals. Students will be introduced to current theoretical concepts dealing with criminality and victimization of women.

CJ 265 Drugs and Society (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Examination of the role of drugs in contributing to crime. Roles of gangs and guns in relation to drugs are also covered. This course provides an overview of the legal and illegal drugs affecting today's society and the criminal justice system response.

CJ 270 Juvenile Justice (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Examines theories of delinquency and issues facing today's youth. Illustrates how children are processed by the Juvenile Justice System, from investigation to re-entry into society.

CJ 275 Gangs (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Exploration of gang activity in the U.S. Examines gang related violence, and the dynamics of gang involvement. Criminological theories that explain the social, economic, and environmental reasons for gang existence are discussed.

CJ 277 Court Processing and Sentencing (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Analysis of the U.S. court system including federal, state, appellate, and supreme courts. Contemporary court system issues are examined.

CJ 280 Corrections (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Examination of the different types of jails and prisons in modern society. Emphasis on historical, contemporary, and developing duties and responsibilities of the correctional system. Classification systems of offenders and current problems, such as, overcrowding, labor, gang involvement, and inmate rights are reviewed.

CJ 285 Terrorism and Homeland Security (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Theoretical and analytical examination of the concept of terrorism from an international and domestic perspective; included are social, political, and cultural issues motivating terrorist acts, and U.S. historical and contemporary responses to terrorism.

CJ 290 Domestic Violence and Family Dilemma (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Comprehensive look at domestic violence. Analysis of the historical aspects of family violence, and child abuse. Police and court response to domestic violence is highlighted, as well as, stalking and homicide.

CJ 292 Organized Crime (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Examination of the structure and function of organized crime. Covers U.S. and International organized crime, and the types of business most often associated with organized crime.

CJ 295 Victims and Victimology (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

An overview of the literature and research concerning victims and victimization. Emphasis is on the criminal justice system's response to victims, and understanding the impact of victimization on the victim, the criminal justice system, and the communities where victimization occurs.

CJ 297 Field Experience (3)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Student practicum in a criminal justice facility or agency. Goal is to provide the student with practical experience to develop and further their learning of the dynamics of the criminal justice system. Readings and written assignments will be required.

CJ 299 Special Topics (1-8)

Prerequisite: CJ 120

Independent investigations of special interest topics related to criminal justice. Topics may vary to reflect contemporary Criminal Justice Issues.