

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINOLOGY

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

Core Graduate Courses

GCLS 600 - Research Methods- This course focuses on research designs for criminology-related topics and the social sciences. Special attention is given to data collection, reliability and validity threats, the rules for causation, and ethical issues concerning research in the field. 3 Credits

GCLS 610 - Policy Analysis This course focuses on the development of legislative, judicial, and social policies in the United States and the impact these policies have on society. Particular attention is given to the interaction between the various parts of the criminal justice system and how these components operate independently and cooperatively with each other. 3 Credits

GCLS 620 - Advanced Criminological Theories Covers the major theories used in Criminology and Criminal Justice related fields. Special attention is given to the theory's history, hypothesis, assumptions, empirical validity, and policy recommendations. Classical, biological, sociological, and integrated theories are critiqued and examined in great detail. 3 Credits

GCLS 630 - Legal Issues This course will undertake a critical analysis of issues of ongoing relevance in the prosecution and defense of criminal cases. Beyond a basic Criminal Law or Procedure course, the material covered here will examine issues of greater complexity about matters currently confounding courts and legislatures. 3 Credits

GCLS 640 - Statistics This course focuses on the use of statistical techniques in criminology. Special attention is given to SPSS data entry, coding, and output. Descriptive statistics and regression analyses are discussed. 3 Credits

GCLS 660 - Professional Seminar This course provides an overview of various important and relevant issues in the field in terms of research and the administration of justice. It is designed to help students develop master's-level academic skills in Criminology and introduces students to various skills needed to become leaders in the professional world. 3 Credits

Master's Course Electives

CLS – 420 and GCLS 605 – Criminology of Hate - This course will explore the phenomenon of hate crimes and the laws response to them. Consideration will be given of the legislative changes made to deal with hate crime

scenarios and how the courts and law enforcement seek to respond to them. A discussion of the psychological basis for hate crimes will also be entertained. 3 Credits.

CLS – 415 and GCLS 615 – International Criminal Systems - This course will be conducted largely as a seminar in which the students will focus on the criminal system of a given country, explore it thoroughly, and present it in the contrast to the comparable systems in the United States. All phases of the criminal system in these countries will be explored including the determination of what is made criminal, the kinds of investigation use, the forms of adjudication and the forms of sanction and punishment. General course work will discuss the different systems of law used in various countries to contrast them with the system developed in the United States. 3 Credits

CLS 425 and GCLS 625 – Survey of Cybercrime – The phenomenon of cybercrime has created serious challenges both for those in the cybersecurity field and the criminal justice system. This course will analyze how crimes of various types and potential national security threats are or may be committed by use of the Internet and/or other cybertechnologies. Ethical considerations in the use of such technology as a weapon to combat crime and terrorism will also be discussed, along with the statutory framework under which prosecutions of such crimes may take place. 3 Credits.

CLS 430 and GCLS 635 – Public Sector Management – This course will provide an extended discussion of management techniques for government agencies and programs. It will concentrate on formulation of a mission for the agency, organize strategies to accomplish that mission and budgetary and political dimensions that would affect the capacity of the managers to carry out the mission. 3 Credits.

GCLS 640 – Special Topics – This course will focus on the investigation and prosecution of a specific genre of crime, such as capital murder, child molestation, narcotics trafficking, or fraud. Legal, tactical and ethical issues in each will be explored in depth.

CLS-375 and GCLS660 - International Criminal Law - This course will focus on the structures used for the prosecution of international criminals in multinational venues. Examination of international law as it impacts the substantive definition of crimes as well as the political and social dynamics of this expanding area of law will be developed. Occasional offering. 3 Credits.

CLS-355 and GCLS 665– Sentencing - A true understanding of the criminal justice system requires the recognition that the vast majority of cases that enter the system are resolved without a trial. A huge percentage of the cases are either diverted into alternative, rehabilitative programs or are the subject

of guilty pleas and the imposition of a sentence. The matter of sentencing is thus a focal point for much of the theory and practice of the criminal law. This course will discuss the process of sentencing, the various goals that sentencing is supposed to achieve, the interplay between courts and legislatures in the sentencing process, and the various schemes that federal and state systems use to achieve some predictability and consistency in the sentencing process. Consideration will be given to the phenomenon of mandatory minimum sentencing as well as the guideline schemes that are used in various jurisdictions to direct (and sometimes constrain) the traditional discretion of the trial judge in fixing a just sentence. 3 Credits.

CLS-360 and GCLS 670– Prediction/Prevention of Criminal Conduct - This course presents an analysis of high-profile criminals and showcases the empirical and theoretical data to support theories of criminality. Criminal behavior will be viewed through biological, psychological, social, and environmental perspectives. Violence and criminal behavior will be viewed on a developmental continuum. Contemporary issues will be discussed highlighting recent current criminal events that include competence, eyewitness testimony, criminal profiling, jury selection, false memory, and interrogation strategies. Students will be provided with the tools necessary to understand assessment procedures, determine preventative factors, and current treatment models that may help mitigate the causes and outcomes of crime and violence. 3 credits.

CLS-344 and GCLS 675– Financing Criminal Organizations - Large scale international criminal organizations require financing in the same way as any substantial legitimate business activity. This course is designed to analyze the ways in which large scale criminal organizations finance themselves, try to hide their sources of income and assets, and convert those assets into the means through which they continue to carry out their criminal activities. Consideration of law enforcement strategies to interdict and disrupt those financing channels will be considered. 3 Credits

CLS-376 and GCLS 680 – Urban Street Gang Prosecution - An examination of the complex sociological, psychological and criminological dimensions of criminal street gangs, gang membership, and the problems of law enforcement in prosecuting these entities. This course will cover a wide spectrum of topics that interrelate to this complex issue in law enforcement. 3 credits.

Undergraduate Advanced Placement Courses

CLS-504 - Ethical Decisions and Dilemmas in Criminal Justice - This course examines the major ethical dilemmas that confront criminal justice professionals throughout their careers. Students are exposed to the philosophical principles of ethical decision making. Students also examine

issues-based, practical approaches to ethical issues found in all three branches of the criminal justice system - police, courts, and corrections. Policy issues are reviewed and students are encouraged to engage in discussions of key topics in professional ethics and the delicate balance between law and justice. Students enrolled in this course will begin to think about the impact and importance of ethical decision making by criminal justice professionals. Three credits.

CLS – 510 – Criminological Theories - This course focuses on the study of crimes, criminals, causes of criminal behavior and victimization issues. Students explore how the classical, psychological, sociological, economic, biological and political theories of crime explain criminal behavior, and the impact of these theories on the work of the criminal justice system. Prerequisite: CLS 101. Three credits

CLS – 590 - This is the capstone course for justice studies students. It will focus on the integration of information learned from different courses with special focus on criminal law and legal issues, theories of crime, juvenile delinquency, law enforcement, corrections, ethics, forensic science, and research methods. This course will be offered to justice studies students in their final semester in which they receive their degrees. Prerequisite: Student must be in the last semester of their Criminology, Law, and Society course work, or receive permission of instructor. Three credits.