JUST 201 – CRITICAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Updated By: Michelle L. Currier
A. **TITLE**: Critical Issues in Criminal Justice

B. **COURSE NUMBER**: JUST 201

C. **CREDIT HOURS**: 3 credits/3 contact hours per week for 15 weeks.

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE**: Yes

E. **GER CATEGORY**: n/a

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED**: Fall and spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**: This course provides a study of the economic, political, ethical and emotional issues in policing, courts and corrections. Issues covered may include use of force by law enforcement, juvenile justice, drugs, gender-related violence, racial issues, the media, forensics, mental health and disability, immigration, the death penalty, or other current and emerging topics in criminal justice.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES**:

   a. Pre-requisite(s): JUST 101, Introduction to Criminal Justice, or permission of the instructor.

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>PSLO (LEL)</th>
<th>GER</th>
<th>ISLO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Explore the impact of current and emerging issues in law enforcement and policing.</td>
<td>PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking [IA]</td>
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<td>b. Analyze legal decisions of importance and critical issues in sentencing and the courts.</td>
<td>PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking [IA]</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Describe the impact of punishment and corrections on those within the system.</td>
<td>PSLO3-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Critical Thinking [IA]</td>
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d. Explain how diversity and minority issues have impacted the criminal justice system.

PSLO1-Students will be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of core law enforcement principles and how they impact agency operations.

4. Social Responsibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISLO #</td>
<td>ISLO &amp; Subsets</td>
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</table>
| 1 | Communication Skills  
Oral [O], Written [W] |
| 2 | Critical Thinking  
Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS] |
| 3 | Foundational Skills  
Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR] |
| 4 | Social Responsibility  
Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T] |
| 5 | Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills |

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes_____ No X___

K. TEXTS:
Free materials from the open web or from library resources.

L. REFERENCES: n/a

M. EQUIPMENT: Standard technology-enhanced classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:
Assignments; Exams; Research Paper

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:
I. Introduction  
A. The Criminal Justice System
II. Critical Issues in the U.S. Justice System  
A. Identifying current and emerging issues
B. The media, bias, and interpreting information

III. Policing and Law Enforcement
   A. Identifying emerging issues of importance in law enforcement and policing
   B. Suggested topic: Use of force, police brutality
   C. Suggested topic: Immigration enforcement

IV. The Courts and Sentencing
   A. Identifying emerging issues of importance in the courts and sentencing
   B. Suggested topic: Forensic Science in the Court
   C. Suggested topic: Sentencing Disparity, Mandatory Minimums

V. Corrections and Punishment
   A. Identifying emerging issues of importance in corrections and punishment
   B. Suggested topic: Death Penalty
   C. Suggested topic: Solitary Confinement

VI. Communicating About the Issues
   A. Writing and Speaking about Critical Issues
   B. Research and Argument on a Critical-Issue Topic