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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS University of Colorado Denver

MCJ Core Courses

CF JI 5000 LAW AND SOCIAL CONTROL

This course provides an overview of the theory and application of criminal law in the context of social control and social justice. The course reviews various theoretical perspectives on law and society, focusing on the relationship between law and the structure and function of other social institutions. The course also examines aspects of the criminal law in action, assessing how legal definitions and sanctions are differentially interpreted and applied.

7F >I 5100 ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This course analyzes the policies and practices of agencies involved in the criminal justice process from the detection of crime and arrest of suspects through prosecution, adjudication, sentencing and imprisonment to release. The patterns of decisions and practices are reviewed in the context of a systems approach.

7F >I 5120 NATURE AND CAUSES OF CRIME

This course analyzes the social origins of criminal behavior and the impact of crime on society. Various categories of deviant, delinquent and criminal behaviors are examined, and attempts to control such behavior are assessed. Connections between social institutions, social problems, and illegal activities, and the response of the public to the threat of crime are examined.

7F >I 5321 RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This course provides an assessment of research strategies in criminal justice through an examination of applied research designs and analytical models. The logic and rationale of these various strategies are contrasted, and their relative merits are critiqued. Selected research problems in the criminal justice system are utilized to illustrate the application and interpretation of alternative strategies.

MCJ ELECTIVES

Students must complete a minimum of five elective courses (15 semester hours) in criminal justice. Students should discuss elective options with their faculty advisor. All elective courses are three credit hours. Elective courses offered in the MCJ program include the following:

7F > 5320 SEMINAR: POLICE ADMINISTRATION

This seminar considers the major issues confronting police executives, such as professionalism, recruitment, selection, training, deployment, innovation, evaluation, and charges of brutality, inefficiency and corruption.

CF JI 5325 SEMINAR: QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This seminar focuses on qualitative methods applicable to research in the field of criminal justice. The primary focus is on ethnographic approaches employing such fieldwork techniques as observation, participant observation, interviews, content analysis, life histories, and cases studies.

7F > 5510 SEMINAR: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

This seminar examines current thinking and experience with respect to changing and reforming police programs and practices. The course focuses primarily on the American police experience, reviewing major innovations, exploring their rationale, and examining organizational impediments to their implementation.

7F > 5520 SEMINAR: CORRECTIONS

This seminar provides a critical examination of the development and implementation of correctional systems in America. The course presents the origins of correctional efforts and the evolution of the prison; reviews punishment and rehabilitation rationales in the context of sentencing models; examines the social organization of the prison, including inmate subcultures and staff work strategies; and assesses the inmates' rights movement and the impact of judicial intervention in correctional settings.

7F > 5530 SEMINAR: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

This seminar analyzes the theories and practices of probation and parole, responses of paroling authorities to public pressures and court controls, and their implications for rehabilitation. Efforts to bridge institutional settings and community life, as well as the feasibility and effectiveness of treating individuals under sentence in the community, are reviewed.

7F > 5540 SEMINAR: JUVENILE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

This seminar examines the policies and practices of agencies in processing youthful offenders through the juvenile court system, reviews trends in juvenile justice policymaking, and assesses changes in responses to juvenile crime by both the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

7F > 5550 SEMINAR: CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ANALYSIS

This seminar provides a survey of conceptual and design strategies in criminal justice policy analysis. The logic and rationale of these various strategies are contrasted, and their relative merits are critiqued. Selected policy issues in the criminal justice system are utilized to illustrate the application and interpretation of alternative strategies.

7F > 5551 SEMINAR: JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

This seminar analyzes judicial organization, court administration and criminal court judicial decision making practices within the context of the broader operation of the criminal

justice system. Special attention is paid to the social organization of the courtroom, examining the special roles of judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys.

7F > 5552 SEMINAR: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ETHICS

This seminar offers a normative framework within which to explore ways to increase sensitivity to the demands of ethical behavior among criminal justice personnel. The application of a normative perspective enhances the possibility that moral problems will be better understood, more carefully analyzed and rendered more tractable. Applied ethics forces a reflection not just on ethics, but also on the nature and operation of the criminal justice system itself.

7F > 5553 SEMINAR: WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This seminar explores issues surrounding women as offenders, victims, and criminal justice professional; investigates explanations for the involvement of women in illegal activities; analyzes the plight of battered women, rape victims and other female victims; and examines the participation of women in law enforcement, judicial processes, corrections and lawmaking.

7F > 5554 SEMINAR: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

This seminar provides an overview of reform efforts in the criminal justice system. Selected theoretical approaches and policies are examined and assessed in light of their assumptions and programmatic applications. The rationales and processes underlying selected reform strategies are explored. The implications of the effects of reform in criminal justice policymaking and decisionmaking are analyzed.

7F > 5570 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This seminar is intended to provide both a comprehensive and intensive examination and analysis of contemporary issues in crime, law and justice. Subjects vary from semester to semester. Course may be taken for credit more than once provided subject matter is not repeated.

7F > 5571 ADVANCED SEMINAR: THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF CRIME

This seminar explores the relationship of neighborhood social disorganization to the dynamics of crime from a social ecology perspective. The course examines the underlying social causes of phenomena such as criminal victimization, violent and property crime, neighborhood fear, neighborhood deterioration, and recidivism. The course will examine both social structural and ecological characteristics of neighborhoods and communities in affecting crime.

7F > 5572 ADVANCED SEMINAR: RACE, CRIME AND JUSTICE

This seminar examines the role of race in criminal justice processing. The class analyzes the research findings, interpretations, issues and implications in assessing the impact of race in the administration of criminal justice. This course explores the policy implications concerning the nature and extent of racial disparities in the criminal justice system and lays out a research agenda to more strategically address these issues within criminal justice policy making.

CF JI 5573 ADVANCED SEMINAR: ORGANIZED CRIME

This seminar examines the issues involved in understanding those economic activities by which persons involved in “organized crime” make money. Major topics include: the structure of drug trafficking; the operations of illegal gambling activities; the culture and functions of loansharking; the economics of labor racketeering; and the role of criminal groups in fencing stolen goods and providing other services to highjackers and burglars.

7F > 5574 ADVANCED SEMINAR: WHITE COLLAR CRIME

This seminar employs both the social science and legal approaches to examine crime committed by corporations as well as by individuals in white collar occupations. The course covers how such crimes are socially defined, who commits them, who is victimized by them, which social contexts promote them, and how society and the criminal justice system respond to them.

CF JI 5575 THE MENTALLY DISORDERED OFFENDER

This seminar examines the offender who may be mentally disordered. A survey is made of the various phases of the criminal justice system where psychiatrists are involved, e.g., diversion, fitness, insanity, and sentencing. Dangerous sex offender legislation, “not guilty by reason of insanity” and “guilty but mentally ill” statutes, and issues concerning confidentiality, informed consent, and treatment are addressed.

CF JI 5576 ADVANCED SEMINAR: SOCIAL SCIENCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

This course examines the use of social science as a tool for legal analysis within the criminal justice system. The course examines how social science research is used to resolve relatively simple factual disputes, then moves on to more complex issues that arise when social science is invoked to make or to change law, both constitutional law—particularly the first, sixth, eighth and fourteenth amendments—and common law, particularly the construction of procedural rules that govern the operations of the criminal justice system.

CF JI 6600 SPECIAL TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This highly specialized seminar addresses cutting-edge and emerging developments in the field of criminal justice and provides students and faculty with the opportunity to explore significant themes, issues and problems from a broad interdisciplinary perspective. Topics vary from semester to semester. (Note: Course may be taken for credit more than once provided subject matter is not repeated.)