George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  **__X__** NEW  **___** MODIFY  **___** DELETE

Local Unit: Public & International Affairs/ADJ  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: JLCP  Course Number: 702

Full Course Title: Comparative Justice

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Comparative Justice

Credit hours: 3  Program of Record: Justice, Law, & Crime Policy

Repeatable for Credit?  **__D=Yes, not within same term** Up to hours

**__T=Yes, within the same term** Up to hours

_**X_=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  **___** Lecture (LEC)  **___** Lab (LAB)  **___** Recitation (RCT)

**___** Studio (STU)  **___** Internship (INT)  **___** Independent Study (IND)  **__X_** Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3:3:0  Course Level:  **GF(500-600) ____ GA(700+) _X_**

Maximum Enrollment: 20  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: Fall 2005

Prerequisites or corequisites: JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission.

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses:  **JLCP 702 Comparative Justice (3:3:0). Prerequisite: JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission.** Survey of justice systems and their environments in different lands and cultures. Identifies commonalities and differences among justice systems, evaluates them, and considers policy implications.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:

Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Submitted by:  ________________________________  email: smastrof@gmu.edu

Department/Program:  ________________________________  Date: __________________

College Committee:  ________________________________  Date: __________________

Graduate Council Representative:  ________________________________  Date: __________________
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Course Coordination Form

**Approval from other units:**

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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Graduate Council approval: ________________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: __________________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: ____________________________ Date: __________
George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

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Please indicate:  ___X___ NEW  ___ MODIFY  ___ DELETE

Local Unit: Public & International Affairs  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: GOVT  Course Number: 732

Full Course Title: Comparative Justice

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Comparative Justice

Credit hours: 3  Program of Record: Political Science M.A.

Repeatable for Credit?  ___ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to hours
___ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to  hours
___ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  ___ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___ Recitation (RCT)
___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)  ___ Independent Study (IND)  ___X_ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3:3:0  Course Level: GF(500-600)  ___ GA(700+)  _X_

Maximum Enrollment: 20  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: Fall 2005

Prerequisites or corequisites: JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission.

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.: GOVT 732 Comparative Justice (3:3:0). Prerequisite: JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission. Survey of justice systems and their environments in different lands and cultures. Identifies commonalities and differences among justice systems, evaluates them, and considers policy implications.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:
Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by:  ________________________________  email: smastrof@gmu.edu
Department/Program:  ________________________________  Date: ________________
College Committee:  ________________________________  Date: ________________
Graduate Council Representative:  ________________________________  Date: ________________
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Graduate Council approval: ____________________________ Date: __________
Graduate Council representative: ____________________________ Date: __________
Provost Office representative: ____________________________ Date: __________
**Course Description**

This course provides a survey of justice systems and their task environments in different lands and cultures. It identifies commonalities and differences among justice systems, and it develops a better understanding and facility with the comparative method. The course considers the causes and consequences of differences among justice systems, allowing an evaluation of the utility of lessons that might be applied from one system to another.

**Course Prerequisite**

JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission.

**Course Objectives and Learning Methods**

This course is designed to accomplish three major sets of objectives:

- Develop knowledge of the variety of justice systems that exist worldwide – their differences and similarities in structure and practice, why they are different, and whether/how these differences produce different outcomes.
- Familiarize students with the comparative method and strengthen students’ skill in using that method.
- Consider the causes and consequences of differences among justice systems, allowing an evaluation of the utility of lessons that might be applied from one system to another.

The approach to learning in this course begins with the assumption that each doctoral student bears primary responsibility for advancing his or her own intellectual development and also has a responsibility for contributing to the development of knowledge and skills of others in the class. The professor’s responsibility is to design the class, structure the use of class time, and guide members of the class as a group and individually.

This course will be conducted seminar style, meaning that students and professor must come to each class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. One purpose of class discussion is to ensure that students understand what the authors are communicating, but that is only the beginning. Students are expected to critique the writings in a constructive manner, to synthesize the materials, to elaborate or expand upon them, and to consider applications of these materials to other circumstances. In doing this, students will need to engage each other and the professor in discussion, debate, and constructive criticism, which must always be conducted thoughtfully and with civility.

Students are encouraged to engage each other outside of class as well as during class time. This will be facilitated from time-to-time by team assignments.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Students are expected to engage in a number of activities that will (a) promote their own learning, (b) promote the learning of other students, and (c) enable the instructor to judge how well the student is learning and assign a course grade. Specific course requirements and grading weight are described below:

- Seminar discussion -- 30%
Students are expected to make a substantial contribution to the discussion of the course topic and assigned readings at each seminar session. This will include offering summaries of particular readings, critiques of those readings, synthesis of readings, introduction and application of other relevant information to the discussion topic, and application of readings to other situations. Each student is expected to participate without being asked to do so, and each student will be given opportunities to participate. A grade will be assigned to students for each session, and this grade will be communicated to the student (by email), normally within 48 hours of the seminar. To calculate the grade for seminar discussion, the professor will count the top ten grades.

- Written reviews – 20%

Each student will be responsible for submitting in writing two 2-3 page (single-spaced, 12-point font) summary/critiques of a reading designated by the professor. These assignments will be made by the professor at least 2 weeks before they are due. The writer will be responsible for distributing his/her critique to all class participants at least 48 hours before the class meeting at which this reading will be discussed. Other members of the class are expected to have read the critique before class. This writing will serve as a lead-off for class discussion on that topic.

- Team project – 25%

Students will be grouped into teams of 2 or 3 students. Each team will be assigned a course session and required to conduct a learning experience on the topic for that session, drawing on materials that have not been assigned by the instructor. This could include such things as expanding the range of justice systems considered, demonstrating the practical or policy considerations of the readings, or other projects that will enlarge the class’s understanding of the topic. Each team project will take about 50-60 minutes of class time. Team participants should allow for 20-30 minutes of class participation time during this time period. It is important that each team member have made a significant and transparent contribution to the project – for grading purposes.

- Research paper – 25%

Each student will be responsible for writing an article-length research paper on a topic relevant to the course. This research paper should identify a specific topic or issue and draw upon secondary resources for research. Each student should begin the selection of the paper topic early in the semester, consulting with the professor for guidance and approval. The paper topic should be approved and research should begin by the end of the fourth week of the semester. Students will give a brief presentation in class of their research at the end of the semester.

Assigned Texts and Readings

See outline of topics below

Outline of Topics

Week 1
Introduction to the course. Discussion of course objectives, methods, requirements, and grading. No reading assignment.
Week 2
**Introduction to the Field of Comparative Justice**
Readings

Week 3
**Understanding Cross-National Variations of Crime Rates**
Readings

Week 4
**Police Records of Crime and Self-Reported Delinquency in International Perspective**
Readings

Week 5
**Crime Victimization in Light of the Results of the International Crime Victim Survey**
Readings
John van Kesteren, Pat Mayhew and Paul Nieuwbeerta: Criminal Victimization in Seventeen Industrialized Countries: Key Findings from the 2000 International Crime Victims Survey. The Hague, WODC 2000

Week 6
**The Operation of Criminal Justice Systems, Punishment and Sanctions in Comparative Perspective**
Readings

Week 7
Readings
Prison Populations World Wide and the Death Penalty

Week 8
Drug and Drug Control in a Global World
Readings

Week 9
International Issues on Violence and Health
Readings

Week 10
Youth and Gang Violence
Readings

Week 11
Sexual Violence, Violence by Intimate Partners and Child Abuse and Neglect by Parents and Other Caregivers
Readings

Week 12
**Crime Prevention in the Global Village**
Readings

Week 13
**Emerging International Issues such as Transnational Crime and Terrorism**
Readings

Week 14
**Research Paper Presentations**
No assigned readings.

**JLCP 702/GOVT 732 Comparative Justice (3:3:0).** *Prerequisite: JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission.* Survey of justice systems and their environments in different lands and cultures. Identifies commonalities and differences among justice systems, evaluates them, and considers policy implications.