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:     ___ NEW   ___ MODIFY   ___ DELETE

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

Course Abbreviation: JLCP                          Course Number: 741

Full Course Title: Conduct of Justice Organizations at Street Level

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Cond of Just Orgs at Strt-lvl

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
       ___ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):    ___ Lecture (LEC)    ___ Lab (LAB)    ___ Recitation (RCT)
           ___ Studio (STU)    ___ Internship (INT)    ___ Independent Study (IND)   ___ 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 740/PUAD 790 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 741Conduct of Justice Organizations at the Street Level (3:3:0). Prerequisite JLCP 740/GOVT 790 or instructor’s permission. How justice organizations behave at lowest levels, where service is delivered and discretion is greatest (e.g., suspects, victims, witnesses, police officers, prison guards, parole officers, attorneys, and others who interact with the justice system).

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: __________________

Prerequisites or corequisites: JLCP 740/GOVT 790 or instructor’s permission.
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
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Please indicate:  ___X__ NEW  ____ MODIFY  _____ DELETE

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

Course Abbreviation: PUAD  
Course Number: 793

Full Course Title: Conduct of Justice Organizations at Street Level

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Cond of Just Orgs at Strt-lvl

Credit hours: 3  
Program of Record: Public Administration, MPA

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

Up to hours

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 740/PUAD 790 or instructor’s permission.

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  
GOVT 793 Conduct of Justice Organizations at the Street Level (3:3:0). Prerequisite: JLCP 740/GOVT 790 or instructor’s permission. How justice organizations behave at lowest levels, where service is delivered and discretion is greatest (e.g., suspects, victims, witnesses, police officers, prison guards, parole officers, attorneys, and others who interact with the justice system).

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

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by:  
email: 

Department/Program:  
Date: 

College Committee:  
Date: 

Graduate Council Representative:  
Date: 

email: 

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**Course Coordination Form**

**Approval from other units:**

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Graduate Council approval: ______________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ___________________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: _____________________________ Date: __________
JLCP 741/GOVT 793
Conduct of Justice Organizations at the Street Level

Topic Description
A thorough understanding of justice organizations requires the student to dig beneath "official" symbols like mission statements and formal structures. It requires students to understand how these organizations behave on "the streets." This course examines how justice organizations behave on "the streets." It explores the way justice is administered at the level of individual human interaction for suspects, victims, witnesses, police officers, prison guards, parole officers, and others who work in and interact with the justice system. It focuses on the way justice organizations behave: in courtrooms, on the streets, behind prison walls, in halfway houses. Concepts which will be included are the individual and behavior, individuals interacting with each other, the impact of organization on behavior, and the impact of social organization on behavior. Of special interest will be what is particularly problematic for street-level bureaucracies: control of the discretion exercised by the low-ranking members of the organization. The course will draw on empirical studies and theories from the study of civil and criminal justice organizations specifically, and human services organizations more broadly. Students will find in this course a unique perspective on how the justice system and its actors attempt on a daily basis to process and change the people with whom they interact.

Course Prerequisites
JLCP 740/GOVT 790 or permission of the instructor.

Course Objectives and Learning Methods
Students will be expected to develop an understanding of the justice system from the perspective of its clients, its employees, and others who both shape it and interact with it. The course requires students to read from an eclectic list of readings from multiple disciplines and intellectual traditions. Underlying all of these readings, and the course more generally, is the notion that a solid understanding of the justice system means understanding its behavior at the “street” level.

Instruction will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and group projects. The class will be very-much “hands on,” requiring students to take responsibility for leading discussion. The professor will serve as a facilitator, not a lecturer. Students will be expected to contribute to and lead discussions and to work closely with one another in productive and thoughtful group projects both in and out of the classroom.

Course Requirements and Grading
A major component of the course is the group interaction among the students. Each class, students will be expected to have completed the reading assignment. Those who choose not to read or who are otherwise unable to complete the reading make it difficult for the group projects to thrive and function as intended.

§ Students will prepare a 20-30 page paper that focuses on the nature of the justice system from the perspective of at least three of the roles covered in class (e.g., judge, patrol officer, victim, witness, etc...). The student should conduct interviews or surveys with a sample of people occupying (or who have occupied) these various roles in an effort to understand justice on the streets. The paper should draw on the readings assigned in class, as well as at least five scholarly, peer-reviewed publications that are not contained in the reading list for this class. Topics will be approved mid-way through the semester, with the final paper due at the end of the term (50 % of final grade).

§ Students must come to class having read the day’s material and prepared to participate in class discussion. Throughout the term students will take responsibility for leading class discussion (20 % of final grade).
About two-thirds of the way through the course, students will take an examination on all course material covered up to that point (30% of final grade).

**Assigned Texts/Readings**

**Texts**

Gregory, George H., and John W. Roberts., *Alcatraz Screw: My Years As a Guard in America's Most Notorious Prison*.


Liebow, Elliot, and Hylan Lewis (1968). *Tally's Corner*.


**Readings**


Cho, Susie.


Laguzza, Ross P. Finding Out How Jurors Think. 22 *Legal Times* S42 (June 7, 1999).


Strier, Franklin D. The Road to Reform: Judges on Juries and Attorneys. 30 Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review 1249 (April 1997)


Outline of topics

Part 1: Street Level Bureaucrats

Week 1. Introduction to Course
Week 2. Street-Level Bureaucrats: Theoretical Perspectives

Part 2: Police and Security Officers

Week 3 Patrol Officers
Week 4 Detectives
Week 5 Private security

Part 3: Courts/Corrections
Week 6. Judges
Week 7. Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys
Week 8. Juries
Week 9. Prison guards
Week 10. Probation and Parole Officers

Part 4: Client Perspectives

Week 11. Victims and Witnesses
Week 12. Suspects, Arrestees, and Defendants
Week 13. Inmates

Part 5: Concluding Themes
Week 14. Conclusion

Honor Code

I believe very strongly in the principle of academic integrity, and I will simply not accept ANY violations of the University Honor Code in my class. The Honor Code contains provisions on cheating, lying, plagiarizing, and stealing. If I witness any violations of the Honor Code, I will follow the standard reporting procedures as outlined in the most recent edition of the George Mason University Catalog.

I am operating on the assumption that you have read the Honor Code. If you have not, please do so immediately.