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:  749

Full Course Title: Issues in Justice Administration

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Issues in Justice Admin

Credit hours: 1-3  Program of Record: Justice, Law, & Crime Policy

Repeatable for Credit?  ____ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to 6 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 1-3:1-3:0  Course Level: GF(500-600)  ____ GA(700+)  ____

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

Prerequisites or corequisites: JLCP 509/PUAD 509 or 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 749  Issues in Justice Administration (1-3:1-3:0).
Prerequisites: JLCP 509/PUAD 509 or JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission.
Exploration of current and emerging issues in justice administration, taking into diverse perspectives. Emphasis on use of theory and evidence to evaluate different viewpoints on issues. Course topics vary, focusing on controversial matters.

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: ____________
JLCP 749/PUAD 799
ISSUES IN JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Course Description

Exploration of current and emerging issues in justice administration, taking into diverse perspectives. Emphasis on use of theory and evidence to evaluate different viewpoints on issues. Course topics vary, typically focusing on a matter of some controversy, such as the treatment of victims, the impact of minority race/ethnic group status on justice administration, reforms in courts, law enforcement, and punishment, maintaining security and civil liberties. Topics will vary from semester to semester. What follows is an example of a course on the treatment of crime victims.

Course Prerequisites

JLCP 509/PUAD 509 or JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission.

JLCP 749/PUAD 799: ISSUES IN JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION: VICTIMS OF CRIME

Course Description

Victims of crime have been overlooked in the haste to understand, prevent, and control crime. Research and public attention has begun to focus on this important group over the last few decades, as victims’ movements have begun to have a political impact: drunk driving, domestic assault, rape and sexual abuse of women, child abuse, abuse by the clergy, hate crimes, and drug-related crimes. All of these movements have attempted to mobilize communities to petition justice agencies to treat the victims of these crimes with greater care. These movements have generated considerable controversy about how victims have been treated and how they ought to be treated. Much of the dialog and debate is ideological in nature. The purpose of this course is to apply what can be learned from scientific research to the issues of the victims’ plight and the treatment they deserve by the justice system.

Course Objectives and Learning Methods

This course seeks to develop knowledge on the issue of victims’ experiences at the hands of the victimizer and the justice system. This requires developing an understanding of social and political movements that stirred interest in the plight and rights of victims, and it requires knowledge of theories and empirical findings from the science of victimology. Learning methods include the reading and discussion of materials written on the topic, research that involves developing background knowledge of a particular type of victim or victimization and conducting interviews with a small sample of victims of that crime, and essay exams. Thus, student learning will occur through indirect methods of reading assigned materials and initiating research in the library, but it will also include direct interaction with crime victims and/or those who were important in their experience with the crime and justice system. Writing and speaking skills will be developed through participation in class discussion, writing a midterm and final essay examination, writing a research paper, and presenting it to the class.
Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated as follows:

- **Midterm Exam (week 8)** 20%
- **Final Exam (final exam week)** 20%
- **Class participation** 20%
- **Research paper (written) (due week 12)** 30%
- **Oral research presentation (weeks 12-14)** 10%

Exams will be in-class essays. Class participation grades will be assigned for each class period. The two lowest class participation grades will be dropped and the class participation grade will be determined by averaging the remainder. The research paper will require that the student select a particular type of crime victim, highlighting a particular issue of interest. The student will conduct background research on what empirical research currently shows about this issue. Then the student will conduct interviews with a small number of victims of this sort and others (as available) involved in the experience of victimization or in the processing of the victim's case in the justice system. The purpose of this research is to apply the library research to the particular case selected.

Required Readings


**Topic Outline**

Week 1 Course introduction

Week 2 The victims’ movements – social and political contexts

Week 3 Defining and measuring victimization

Week 4 Sources of victimization data and the distribution of victimization

Week 5 Repeat victimizations

Week 6 Theories of victimization

Week 7 Theories of victimization, continued

Week 8 Midterm examination (half the class) and discussion of research projects

Week 9 Costs and consequences of victimization

Week 10 Impact on victims

Week 11 Justice system responses

Week 12 Justice system responses, continued (research presentations)

Week 13 Victims’ rights and services (research presentations)
JLCP 749/PUAD 799 Issues in Justice Administration (1-3:1-3:0). Prerequisites: JLCP 509/PUAD 509 or JLCP 700/GOVT 726 or instructor’s permission. Exploration of current and emerging issues in justice administration, taking into diverse perspectives. Emphasis on use of theory and evidence to evaluate different viewpoints on issues. Course topics vary, typically focusing on controversial matters.