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: 760

Full Course Title: Crime and Crime Policy

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Crime and Crime Policy

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__ 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: None

Catalog Description (35 words or less) Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. JLCP 760 Crime and Crime Policy (3:3:0). Explores the relationship between crime policy and empirical evidence about etiology of crime. Includes crime measurement and trends in crime over time, effectiveness of various policy interventions.

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: 

**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:  792

Full Course Title: Crime and Crime Policy

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Crime and Crime Policy

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
            _X_ 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: None

Catalog Description (35 words or less) Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.:  GOVT 792 Crime and Crime Policy (3:3:0). Explores the relationship between crime policy and empirical evidence about etiology of crime. Includes crime measurement and trends in crime over time, effectiveness of various policy interventions.

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: ____________
Course Description
This course seeks to answer fundamental questions about the crime/policy relationship, such as whether policies are formulated in response to real crime problems, and whether crime problems are ameliorated with the implementation of a policy or new practice. The course begins with a detailed examination of crime measurement and trends in crime over time. Current policies and practices of criminal justice agencies will be evaluated in light of current understandings of the etiology of criminal behavioral, and whether the policies and practices serve to reduce crime, or the fear of crime, or improve pro-social competencies or quality of community life.

Prerequisites
None.

Course Objectives and Learning Methods
Students will critically examine whether and how policies reflect the latest data, research and theoretical work on crime and its causes, and whether the policies are effective. Students will be expected to discuss the wisdom of crime control and prevention strategies within the context of current research and will prepare alternative or ideal constructions of crime policies.

Requirements and Grading
Students will be evaluated on their performance on two in-class essay examinations and one research paper. The in-class exams will be worth 35 percent each of the final grade, and the research paper will contribute 30 percent toward the final grade.

Research paper Students will write a 15–to-20-page research paper (typed, double-spaced, numbered, one-inch margins, and 12-point font) on a topic relevant to this course. The specific topic must be approved by the instructor. To receive approval, students must (1) submit, in writing, a proposal that (a) outlines the research question or issue, (b) provides a brief outline of how the student plans to address it, (c) lists the resources the student expects to use - a minimum of eight scholarly references are required - and (2) if necessary, meet individually with the instructor to discuss the written proposal. Students are expected to use proper American Psychological Association (APA) formatting with all sources properly acknowledged throughout the text and listed in a bibliography. Students will be graded based on (1) compliance with approval requirements, (2) appropriateness of references, (3) demonstration of comprehension of the subject matter, (4) ability to critically analyze research materials, and (5) proper referencing, spelling, and grammar. The paper is due on November 19th.

In-class exams The mid-term and final exams will be essay and short-answer (paragraph). All course lectures, discussions, and reading assignments will be potential topics for the exams.
Assigned Readings


Course Schedule

Week 1: Course introduction

Week 2: Measuring crime & criminal justice statistics

Week 3: Policing: Deterrence and its mechanisms. Can police prevent crime?

Week 4: Community policing and crime control. Paper topics due

Week 5: Controlling terrorism

Week 6: Sentencing: The Criminal Career Research

Week 7: Sentencing: From indeterminate to determinate, selective incapacitation

Week 8: Exam I

Week 9: Sentencing: Mandatory minimums, 3-strikes selective incapacitation

Week 10: Corrections and post-release (rehabilitation): Nothing Works Debate

Week 11: Corrections and post-release: Longer Sentences Corrections and post-release: Intermediate Sanctions

Week 12: Corrections and post-release: Intermediate Sanctions

Week 13: Prevention programming: Prenatal and early childhood influences

Week 14: Prevention programming Paper due
Catalog Description