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: 761

Full Course Title: Politics of Crime & Security

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Politics of Crime & Security

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

Repeatable for Credit?  

_ D = Yes, not within same term  

_ T = Yes, within the same term  

_ 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:  

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 760/GOVT 792 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 761 Politics of Crime Policy (3:3:0). Prerequisites: JLCP 760/GOVT 792 or instructor’s permission. Explores the political context of crime policy. Examination of the influence of public opinion, interest groups, the scientific community, and other political forces. In-depth case-study comparison of several crime policies.

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
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Please indicate:  ____ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

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

Course Abbreviation:  GOVT  Course Number:  709

Full Course Title:  Politics of Crime & Security

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.):  Politics of Crime & Security

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

Repeatability 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)  ___ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format:  :  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 760/GOVT 792 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 709  Politics of Crime Policy (3:3:0). Prerequisites: JLCP 760/GOVT 792 or instructor’s permission. Explores the political context of crime policy. Examination of the influence of public opinion, interest groups, the scientific community, and other political forces. In-depth case-study comparison of several crime policies.

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 explores the political context in which crime policy is created, in both the national and local arena. The forces of public opinion, interest groups, and political institutions are examined as is any scientific evidence available at the time. Several contemporary and historical crime policies are examined in-depth as case studies, and are compared and contrasted for relevant themes.

Prerequisites
JLCP 760/GOVT 792 or permission of the instructor

Course Objectives and Learning Methods
Students completing this course will be knowledgeable on the substantive content and corresponding legal and practical implementations of the major crime policies of the last century. Legal statutes, administrative guidelines, and academic and popular press reviews of the policies during their formation will be studied. Students will master researching public opinion surrounding the issues, and will be trained in how to locate and identify relevant polling data. Finally, students will formulate “at the time” and retrospective critical evaluations of the policies and will support their conclusions in the face of the scientific literature.

Requirements and Grading
There are three graded assignments: A group project, a research paper, and a final take-home essay exam. The group project will account for 20 percent of the overall grade, and the research paper and take-home exam will contribute 40 percent each to the final grade.

Group Project   During the first week of class, the class will be divided into groups and students will select from among a list provided by the instructor a single crime policy from the last century. Students will research the social, scientific, and political birth, implementation, and aftermath of the selected policy. The group will present to the class an overview of this policy and provide the class with an outline of their research and presentation. The information provided during the group project presentations will appear on the final exam.

Individual Paper   The individual research paper will allow students to focus on either (a) a particular aspect of crime policy formation of their choice or (b) a specific crime policy or family of policies. Students will submit their thesis proposal by the third week of class, and a list of references and an outline of their evaluation strategy to the instructor by the sixth week of class.

Take-Home Exam   The final exam will be essay-format, take-home, and open-book. All course lectures, discussions, reading assignments and student project presentations will be potential topics for the final exam.
Assigned Readings


Course Schedule

Week 1: How do we know we have a problem that needs a new policy: Criminal justice and the perpetual reform era
Week 2: Sample overview of major crime policies of the 20th century
Week 3: How does the public really feel
Week 4: What does the media report
Week 5: The influence of interest groups
Week 6: From politics to policy
Week 7: From policy to implementation
Week 8: The hard life of the crime policy
Week 9: Rational methods for policy evaluation
Week 10: Realistic methods for policy evaluation
Week 11: Class project presentations
Week 12: Class project presentations
Week 13: Course in review
Week 14: Final exam

Catalog Description

JLCP 761 Politics of Crime Policy (3:3:0). Prerequisites: JLCP 760/GOVT 792 or instructor’s permission. Explores the political context of crime policy. Examination of the influence of public opinion, interest groups, the scientific community, and other political forces. In-depth case-study comparison of several crime policies.