Criminal Justice (CJ)

CJ 5140 Criminological Theory and Practice (3 Credits)
Criminological theory is used to describe and explain criminal as well as law abiding behavior. This course examines the role and utility of criminological theory as a foundation for criminal justice policy, programmatic decisions, and crime prevention strategies. Applications of criminological theory are discussed within the context of a historical understanding of the trajectory of the development and refinement of selected perspectives on crime.

CJ 5150 Reintegration, Rehabilitation, and Retribution (3 Credits)
Examines the forms and functions of correctional philosophies, institutions, and programs. Topics include the structure and functions of institutional corrections, community corrections, and intermediate sanctions. Special emphasis is placed on the process of offender reintegration to the community.

CJ 5160 Ethics and Administration of Justice (3 Credits)
Examines moral dilemmas manifest in modern criminal justice. Theoretical models of ethical reasoning, to include but not limited to utilitarianism, deontology, virtue, and peacemaking, are used to analyze professional discretion and the administration of justice. Special attention is paid to the tension between crime control and due process.

CJ 5170 Evidence Based Decision Making (3 Credits)
This course provides a survey of the ways criminal justice practitioners use data and scientific methods to inform their practice. Emphasis is placed on practical applications used in policing, corrections and the courts. Topics include crime analysis, applied research, evaluation research, performance measurement and statistical reporting.
Prerequisite(s): Undergraduate research methods and introductory statistics courses or demonstrated competency in social science research methods and statistics.

CJ 5180 Management and Planning for Law Enforcement (3 Credits)
This course focuses on the management of police agencies, some of the topics will include (but not limited to) labor relations, community relations, personnel management, fiscal administration, and the integration of internal and external operations. While the primary focus is on law-enforcement these techniques can be utilized in various criminal justice agencies. More specifically the course examines the role of the successful professional manager in administration by covering selected topics in management theory; organizational culture; leadership styles; problem-solving; technology; recruitment, training and education. In addition, issues in ethics; diversity; stress, and deviance are examined within the context of these topics to insure a well rounded experience. The course will utilize a theoretical, philosophical and practical approach to policing in modern society. There is an emphasis on police personnel and relationships with a diverse community by examining the complexity of encounters between police officers and members of racial and ethnic minority groups; the history of police minority relations, with an ancillary look at difficulties and consequences of attracting and hiring minority and women police officers.

CJ 5190 Rights and Due Process (3 Credits)
This course will focus on the role and structure of prosecution, public defense, and the courts in the U.S. system of jurisprudence. The course will provide an intensive review of landmark Supreme Court decisions that interpret the Constitutional guarantees and limit government actions. The course will also help develop a foundation for understanding basic courtroom advocacy for the lay practitioner.

CJ 5950 Thesis (1-6 Credits)
Students will develop and present a thesis research proposal, conduct research, write a thesis and defend the research before a faculty committee. Signature of the faculty supervisor and the Criminal Justice Administration Program Coordinator is required. Once completed candidates are expected to present their final products to their PSU faculty members and/or peers. Pass/No Pass.
Prerequisite(s): 15 graduate credits or more in Criminal Justice Administration and permission of instructor required.