

084 to 099

084 to 099

# WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

RECEIVED

OCT 02 2012

WSU REGISTRAR

TO: Carol Ivory, Associate Dean  
FROM: David Brody, Associate Professor and Chair  
RE: Criminal Justice and Criminology Curriculum Change Proposals  
DATE: September 12, 2012

The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology (DCJC) is an independent academic unit within the College of Arts and Sciences. The department's mission is

to be an asset to the discipline, university, state, and nation. The Department provides an education that produces successful graduates committed to research, service, and justice. Building on our strengths in the application of Criminal Justice research and theory to the areas of Global and Domestic Justice, Health Oriented Policy, the Intersection of Race, Class, and Gender, and rigorous Research Methods, the Department serves as an integral contributor in fulfilling WSU's land-grant mission and advancing domestic and international policy and practice.

The proposed courses are necessary for the department to be able to enhance its capacity to strengthen our priority areas of criminal justice/public health linkages and comparative criminal justice and criminology. The department identified these areas as priorities based on faculty interest and expertise, as well as their place in the university and college strategic goals. The proposed courses will permit the graduate program to offer sufficient courses to attract top-level students, and provide needed flexibility in the curriculum to provide a well-rounded, high-level education in Pullman, Spokane, and across the globe via WSU Online.

As of the fall 2011 semester, the first semester in which the department was an independent unit, the department's graduate program had 23 MA and 20 PhD students at the Pullman and Spokane collocated campuses. Over the past year the DCJC faculty has evaluated its graduate curriculum. As will be discussed in more detail below, from this review, and with input from the WSU Graduate School, it became clear that the graduate program was in desperate need of additional course offerings to effectively serve its large graduate student population.

The department currently offers 11 titled graduate courses and two special topics courses. Given that 8 (62%) of these courses are required for the doctoral degree, PhD students currently have limited options within the department when designing a program to meet the 48 graded credit hour requirement. To make up for this embarrassing dearth of classes, students have taken classes under the current generic special topics (CRMJ 591 and 592) multiple times. This results in nondescript transcripts that don't reflect actual coursework. Moreover, the lack of courses in key substantive areas reflects poorly on the program. Obviously this is no way to run a graduate program, let alone one with several dozen students. To fill this void in course offerings, as well as to fill other

shortcomings identified by the Graduate School, the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology is putting forth proposals for 14 new courses (as well as two existing courses that are being renumbered) that fall within 3 general categories: research methods, substantive fields, and special topics.

Rest assured none of the proposed new courses are “boutique courses.” Each course covers either 1) a broad methodological area, 2) a substantive area necessary for the imminent M.A. program to be offered via WSU Online, directly related to the department’s strategic plan, or one that should be expected on any criminal justice doctoral program, or 3) a Special Topic area that will better describe the courses taken by our students. While the total number of courses is substantial, I am confident that when one considers the rationale for each course independently and as part of an area, it is appropriate that they be added to the curriculum.

### **Underlying basis for the New Course Proposals**

There are three primary reasons giving rise to the submission of the large number of proposed courses at this time.

#### **1. Establishment of the Department Criminal Justice and Criminology**

In 2011 WSU established the Department Criminal Justice and Criminology. Prior to that time, the Criminal Justice Program was housed within the Department of Political Science. While Criminal Justice maintained some autonomy, much of its curriculum was wedded to the Political Science curriculum. As 2012 is its first full year as an independent unit, this is the first opportunity to intelligently and prudently adjust its graduate curriculum as an independent unit.

#### **2. 2012 Graduate School Review**

In March 2012 the Graduate School provided the department with a review of the graduate program. During this review the department was given the results of a 2010 survey of graduate students as well as a number of recommendations based on data from Institutional Research and information submitted by the department. While the review was generally positive, there were several curriculum related issues that the Grad School recommended the department address. The vast majority of the proposed courses are being put forward in response to one or more of the following items:

- Only 50% of respondents were satisfied with the variety of courses offered
- A majority were not satisfied with research training received
- 50% felt development of leadership skills was weak
- 63% were dissatisfied with the preparation for working with people from diverse backgrounds
- 38% were dissatisfied with clarity of advising on degree requirements

### 3. Criminal Justice M.A. Offered via WSU Online.

Beginning in the Fall of 2013 the M.A. in Criminal Justice will be available via WSU Online. While the degree is the same as offered on campus, the department's advisory committee, made up of criminal justice agency leaders from across the state, has requested that courses covering Leadership, Juvenile Justice, and Management, each geared toward criminal justice professionals, be developed and included as available electives.

#### **Impact on Departmental Instructional Resources**

The Department Criminal Justice and Criminology understands that CAS views the requests for new courses have resource implications. In considering the proposed new courses being proposed by the department, I can assure you that the department has sufficient instructional resources and student enrollment to teach each one on a regular basis with no negative impact on CJC's ability to meet its other obligations.

The Department Criminal Justice and Criminology is currently home to ten tenured/tenure track faculty (5 Pullman, 3 Spokane, 2 Vancouver), and one clinical assistant professor. Moreover, the department is currently conducting searches for two additional tenure track assistant professors on the Pullman campus to commence August 2013. Additionally, by agreement between DCJC and Sociology, Jennifer Schwartz of the Sociology Department will teach one graduate course a semester in the areas of criminology, juvenile justice, or research methods.

If one assumes that all Pullman/Spokane faculty<sup>1</sup> (11 in 2013) and Dr. Schwartz each teach 1 graduate class a semester, the department will theoretically be equipped to offer a minimum of 12 graduate courses a semester or 24 per year, excluding summer session. With the addition of the proposed classes, the department plans to offer 7 or 8 seminars a semester in Pullman/Spokane, plus 2 to 4 via WSU Online.<sup>2</sup> Given that the department has taught 5-6 seminars in Pullman/Spokane per semester over the past several years, with the addition of two new assistant professors and Dr. Schwartz's courses, I am confident in saying that teaching 7-8 seminars in Pullman/Spokane will have no impact other faculty and department instructional, research and service obligations. Moreover, given the size of the graduate student body, prior semester enrollments, and the consistent sharing of classes between Spokane and Pullman via AMS, seminars are likely to have a minimum of 8 students enrolled.

#### **Course Justifications**

As noted above, the proposed courses fall into one of three general categories. To get a complete and accurate picture of the contextual background behind each course request, courses from each area are discussed together.

---

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this proposal Vancouver faculty are not expected to teach graduate classes in Pullman. That being said, it is feasible to have Vancouver faculty teach seminars between 2 or 3 campuses over AMS, which would add to CJC's existing instructional capacity.

<sup>2</sup> For outreach purposes, and to meet professional student needs and expectations, online classes will frequently be taught by PhD holding criminal justice professionals as adjunct instructors.

## ***Research Methods***

Doctoral students in Criminal Justice are required to take a minimum of 4 research based courses to fulfill our degree requirements. Currently, the department has two named courses in this area, both cross-listed with Political Science (503 and 504). Students are forced to take additional methods course from other departments, or take such a class within the department when it offered as a Special Topic. This lack of predictability and control of course offerings led to confusion among students as to what courses they should take or at times, were required to take.

In the Fall 2012 semester the Criminal Justice doctoral program instituted new research methods requirements. Based largely on information received from doctoral student exit surveys, the 2010-11 Graduate School survey, analysis of the discipline and the requirements of peer departments, the DCJC faculty unanimously agreed that the research methods and statistics requirements and core sequence for PhD students needed to be both upgraded and simplified. Key to this plan is the establishment of core, uncross-listed required classes, as well as two topics courses which can offer a rotation of advanced courses on a rotating basis.

The proposed courses listed below will serve to eliminate the cross listings, and clarify what students can/must take, provide a means for the department to offer advanced courses appropriate to the discipline. Each course would be offered at least once a year, with on campus enrollments between 12-20 students.

- 520 Research Methods (Previously PS/CJ 503)
- 521 Advanced Research Methods (repeatable)
- 522 Foundations of Quantitative Methods (Previously PS/CJ 504)
- 523 Intermediate Statistics
- 524 Advanced Quantitative Methods (repeatable)

## ***Substantive Areas***

DCJC is putting forth proposals for 6 new courses that cover broad substantive areas traditionally taught in criminal justice doctoral programs. Justification for each is provided individually, along with how often they will be offered.

- 510 Leadership in Criminal Justice Once a year
  - Important course for online MA program.
  - Already developed for online.
  - Need for such a course noted by 50% of students surveyed.
- 511 Criminal Justice Management Once a year
  - Important course for online MA program.
  - Currently being developed for online.



curriculum, they are all included under the one special topic designation. The same is true for Criminology. Broad areas covered under this topic would include specific theoretical paradigms related to causes of crime, punishment theory, and broad theory testing.

The second rationale involves the courses related to “Crime, Criminal Justice, and Public Health” and “Comparative Criminal Justice and Criminology” were included because they directly relate to specific areas the department and graduate program have designated as areas of emphasis. Additionally, since 2010 the department has made one cluster hire in each field. Special topics in these areas enhance our utilization of the cluster hires, and fit squarely within the university’s strategic planning goals. Each of the above courses would be offered once every two years.

### **Summary**

Thank you for consideration of this voluminous request. If you need additional information feel free to contact me at your convenience.

## Oakley, Christine Kay

---

**From:** Brody, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2012 11:16 AM  
**To:** Oakley, Christine Kay  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Grad Courses

Chris: Thanks for forwarding the subcommittee's questions. I have provided responses to each in the order they were posed.

1. We are not changing our degree programs. We are simply adding a number of elective courses to provide students with a reasonable selection of electives to complete their degree requirements.
2. The CAS Dean's office and I have examined the topics covered in the proposed quantitative/statistics based courses, as well as those offered by Psychology and Statistics. At most there is minimal overlap and duplication between the proposed courses and those offered elsewhere in CAS. The proposed courses have been developed and designed to meet the specific needs of graduate students in Criminal Justice and Criminology.
3. Attached is the revised syllabus for CRMJ 520.

Also, Political Science has submitted the minor change forms as requested.

Thanks your time and effort. dcb

David C. Brody, JD, PhD  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology  
Washington State University  
PO Box 1495  
Spokane, WA 99210-1495  
509 358-7952  
Fax 509 358-7933  
Pullman Fax 509 335-7990  
<http://libarts.wsu.edu/crimj/>

---

**From:** Oakley, Christine Kay  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:54 PM  
**To:** Brody, David  
**Subject:** Request for Grad Courses

Hi David,

I am your "official" Catalog Subcommittee liaison. The Subcommittee met today and discussed your request for new graduate courses. We have just a couple of questions before we send your "packet" of courses to the Graduate Studies Committee for their review.

1. Are you changing your degree programs in DCJC? If so, we would need a coversheet indicating revisions in the degree programs, a copy of the current degree programs and a copy of the revisions you are making. Thanks!
2. We noted that your statistics courses are quite similar to those offered by other departments in CAS – primarily Statistics (512, 519, 520 and 530) and Psych. As a Subcommittee, one of our charges is to check for duplication

of existing courses. Please send me a brief explanation how these courses are different from those with similar content in these two CAS disciplines. Again, Thanks!

All courses submitted are fine. FYI - I emailed two professors for minor revisions in their syllabi to meet WSU syllabus standards (Hays – 520 and Hamilton – 522).

The Subcommittee meets every Thursday.

Let me know if you have any questions!

Chris

**Christine K. Oakley MPH PhD**  
Director Global Learning | Associate Clinical Professor, Sociology  
Washington State University | International Programs  
1-509-335-8180 | [coakley@wsu.edu](mailto:coakley@wsu.edu) | [www.ip.wsu.edu](http://www.ip.wsu.edu)



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS