The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology provides a comprehensive examination of justice, crime, and the law. Our classes foster a broad understanding of the nature of justice, crime, and the law, in addition to the social, political, legal, philosophic, and historical context in which questions of justice are addressed, both in the United States and around the world. Students are expected to develop not only knowledge but a commitment to public service, ethical consciousness, and leadership abilities. Through the course work in Criminal Justice and Criminology, students are equipped to become proficient writers, critical and independent thinkers, and effective communicators. Graduates of the Department are prepared for graduate school, law school, and professions within the criminal justice system.

The Department recognizes that the issues of crime and justice are complex, controversial topics that are open to different interpretations. As such, we are committed to an open intellectual environment that encourages teaching, scholarship, and discussion from a diversity of theoretical perspectives and research methodologies. The curriculum of the Department reflects these values by offering a broad foundation of courses drawing on criminal justice, criminology, political science, sociology, public administration, and the law. The curriculum integrates these approaches to provide an understanding of the challenges of achieving justice in a complex society.

Students completing the B.S.J.S. degree in Justice Studies will be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

1) Evaluate the merits of competing theoretical perspectives used to explain the nature of crime and demonstrate an ability to apply criminological theories to specific types of crime;

2) Demonstrate an ability to apply ethical principles to criminal justice issues, policies, and practices, and evaluate their implications;

3) Explain the criminal justice process, the role of discretion among criminal justice actors, and evaluate best practices;

4) Compare and contrast the United States criminal justice system with that of other nations with an understanding of historical and cultural contexts;

5) Evaluate the historical, political, and social contexts and empirical support for a particular criminal justice policy area;

6) Demonstrate an understanding of the research process by both conducting original research and analyzing existing data.

Criminal Justice and Criminology Major


Criminal Justice and Criminology Minor


Criminal Justice and Criminology Concentration


CRJU 1100 Introduction to Criminal Justice
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A 3-hour survey course of the criminal justice system and its central components: police, courts, and corrections. Topics include: the activities and legal environment of each component; individual rights and public order; the juvenile justice process; theories of causation; the growth and use of technology in crime and crime solving; and special issues such as AIDS, drugs, and public policy. CRJU 1100H, CRJU 1100S.

CRJU 1100H Intro to Criminal Justice
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A 3-hour survey course of the criminal justice system and its central components: police, courts, and corrections. Topics include: the activities and legal environment of each component; individual rights and public order; the juvenile justice process; theories of causation; the growth and use of technology in crime and crime solving; and special issues such as AIDS, drugs, and public policy.

Cross Listing(s): CRJU 1100.

CRJU 1100S Introduction to Criminal Justice
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A 3-hour survey course of the criminal justice system and its central components: police, courts, and corrections. Topics include: the activities and legal environment of each component; individual rights and public order; the juvenile justice process; theories of causation; the growth and use of technology in crime and crime solving; and special issues such as AIDS, drugs, and public policy.

Cross Listing(s): CRJU 1100.

CRJU 2131 Justice and Ethics
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Applies ethical theories to issues in the justice system. Topics include definitions of justice, theoretical approaches to ethical conduct, and applications of ethical behavior and decision-making in law enforcement, the judiciary, and the correctional system.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" and prior or concurrent enrollment in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 3111H Honors Thesis Seminar I
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Hour. 0 Lab Hours.
In a seminar setting, students will conduct readings about the research process with a focus on developing an honors thesis proposal.

Prerequisite(s): Minimum junior standing.

CRJU 3112H Honors Thesis Seminar II
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Hour. 0 Lab Hours.
In a seminar setting, students will conduct readings about the research process with a focus on developing an honors thesis proposal. Particular emphasis will be given to construction of a comprehensive literature review and research design.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 3111H; minimum junior standing.

CRJU 3112H Honors Thesis Seminar II
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Hour. 0 Lab Hours.
A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 3111H; minimum junior standing.

CRJU 3131 Criminal Law
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Focuses on the legal processes from arrest through appeal, with emphasis on the rights of the accused. Particular attention paid to due process, the right to counsel, search and seizure, self-incrimination, and challenges to individual rights represented by advances in technology and information systems.

Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3133 Criminal Procedure
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Focuses on the legal processes from arrest through appeal, with emphasis on the rights of the accused. Particular attention paid to due process, right to counsel, search and seizure, self-incrimination, and challenges to individual rights represented by advances in technology and information systems.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3134 Investigations
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Introduces students to fundamentals of conducting investigations. Topics include: evidence gathering, interviews and interrogations, court preparation and testimony, and written reports.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3137 Judicial Process
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Analyzes and evaluates the judicial process by addressing the actors, institutions, processes and procedures that affect the administration of justice.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
Cross Listing(s): POLS 3137.
CRJU 3230 Policing
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Critical examination and assessment of American policing. Major emphases include policing history, functions, organizational structure, effectiveness of practices, community policing, and accountability measures.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 3230S.
CRJU 3230S Policing
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Critical examination and assessment of American policing. Major emphases include policing history, functions, organizational structure, effectiveness of practices, community policing, and accountability measures.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 3230.
CRJU 3331 Corrections
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides an introduction to the correctional process and interventions designed to prevent and control adult criminal behavior. Addresses the philosophy and goals underlying correctional interventions, types of criminal sentencing, and penal sanctions, including community-based corrections, institutional corrections, and parole.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3333 Corrections
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides an introduction to the correctional process and interventions designed to prevent and control adult criminal behavior. Addresses the philosophy and goals underlying correctional interventions, types of criminal sentencing, and penal sanctions, including community-based corrections, institutional corrections, and parole.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3334 Drugs and Society
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides students with a realistic understanding of the problem of drug use and abuse and its impact on individuals, society, and criminal justice systems. Students will become familiar with drug discourse, history, and policy with particular emphasis on the legal prohibitions and enforcement of drugs in American society.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3335 Family Violence
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an examination of family violence with a specific focus on child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse. It focuses on the nature, prevalence, causes, and consequences of each form of family violence, as well as explores the social services and criminal justice systems' response to family violence.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 3535H.
CRJU 3335H Family Violence (Honors)
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an examination of family violence with a specific focus on child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse. It focuses on the nature, prevalence, causes, and consequences of each form of family violence, as well as explores the social services and criminal justice systems' response to family violence.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 3535.
CRJU 3431 Juvenile Justice
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides an overview of the juvenile justice system and juvenile jurisprudence. Examines the development of the juvenile justice system, elements that contribute to juvenile delinquency and delinquency prevention, and the treatment of juveniles by the civil and criminal justice systems.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3432 Gangs and Society
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course examines the history of youth gangs in the United States, contemporary gangs and their activities, why youths join gangs, how gangs relate to the larger society, the impact of gangs on the criminal justice system, and the effectiveness of policies aimed at reducing gang activity.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3432S Gangs, Drugs, and CJ
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course examines the history of youth gangs in the United States, contemporary gangs and their activities, why youths join gangs, how gangs relate to the larger society, the impact of gangs on the criminal justice system, and the effectiveness of policies aimed at reducing gang activity.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 3432.
CRJU 3531 Victimology
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An examination of the causes and consequences of victimization. Major emphases on victimization patterns, risk factors, the victim-offender relationship, range of injuries experienced, and the role of the victim in criminal justice proceedings.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3532 Organized Criminality
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides students with a realistic understanding of the problem of organized criminality in the United States. Focuses on the theories and evolution of traditional organized crime in America, as well as an examination of new and emerging organized crime groups that attempt to acquire a stronghold on criminal enterprises and activities. Examples of organized criminality examined in the class include, but are not limited to: drug trafficking, racketeering, money laundering, environmental crime, and intellectual property crime.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3533 Crimes Against Vulnerable Populations
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides an introductory examination of criminality against vulnerable populations via an overview of current theory, research, and trends within the context of specific victimization types. Specific crimes, their impact on victims, and their social and policy implications will be examined.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3534 Drugs and Society
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course introduces students to the scholarly study of drugs and alcohol from a multidisciplinary, liberal arts perspective. Students will become familiar with drug discourse, history, and policy with particular emphases on the legal prohibitions and enforcement of drugs in American society.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S.
CRJU 3535 Family Violence
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an examination of family violence with a specific focus on child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse. It focuses on the nature, prevalence, causes, and consequences of each form of family violence, as well as explores the social services and criminal justice systems' response to family violence.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 3535H.
CRJU 3535H Family Violence (Honors)
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an examination of family violence with a specific focus on child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse. It focuses on the nature, prevalence, causes, and consequences of each form of family violence, as well as explores the social services and criminal justice systems' response to family violence.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 3535.
CRJU 3536 School Violence
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course provides an examination of school violence, focusing on the school as the location for various forms of violence that result in the victimization of students, teachers, and school administrators. Specifically, the course will focus on several forms of school violence including physical bullying, indirect forms of bullying such as teasing and ostracism, cyber-bullying, and forms of mass violence in schools such as "school shootings." Administrative and criminal justice responses to the various forms of school violence and the consequences of these responses will also be examined.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3537 Communities and Crime
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course focuses on the impact of crime, particularly violence, and criminal justice interventions on local communities. The topics covered in the course include the origins of violence in the community, how the police interact with citizens, how punishment and sentencing strategies impact communities, and the effects of law and policy on communities.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3631 Crime and Justice in Public Policy
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Focuses on the intersection of crime and social justice in the policy process. Particular attention paid to the development of public policy, actors in the process, and the impact of public policy on society, social programs, and the criminal justice system.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3632 The Death Penalty
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines the political and legal controversies surrounding the application of capital punishment. Addresses the theoretical and legal foundation behind its use, historical trends, current practices, constitutional issues, implementation concerns, questions of bias, international law, and American exceptionalism.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3731 Crimes Against Humanity
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides an introduction to human rights violations, including crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes. Focuses on crimes that are part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population, and may include such crimes as individual and collective acts of violence, extermination, enslavement, torture, and persecution. Examines the political, historical, and philosophical explanations for crimes against humanity, as well as the development of international human rights law.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3733 Equality, Crime, and Justice
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An introduction to social stratification and how it intersects with the social realities of crime and justice. Explores the extent, causes, and consequences of institutional inequalities in power, wealth, and status within the realms of criminal offending, victimization, criminal justice processing, and criminal justice employment.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3831 Popular Culture and Justice
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines portrayals of crime, justice, social stratification, the criminal justice system, as well as social and political responses to those issues, in television, film, and literature.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 3931 Issues in Homeland Security
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides students with an overview of the legal, practical, and ethical challenges that accompany efforts to secure the homeland against major twenty-first century threats such as terrorism and cyber-terrorism. Course topics include, but are not limited to: threat assessment, crisis response, incident prevention, and the need to reconcile governmental strategies for disrupting attacks on the homeland with the imperative of protecting civil liberties.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 4031 Counseling and Supervising Offenders
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines the theories and techniques employed to influence and alter the attitudes, values, and behaviors of criminal offenders. Supervision of offenders is emphasized. Focuses on practical application of theories to case studies.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 4032 Criminal Behavior
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines criminal and deviant behaviors from a multidisciplinary approach. Addresses major theories and research, correlates of crime including classification concepts, case studies, and application by components of the criminal justice system.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 4032S.
CRJU 4032S Criminal Behavior
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines criminal and deviant behaviors from a multidisciplinary approach. Addresses major theories and research, correlates of crime including classification concepts, case studies, and application by components of the criminal justice system.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 4032.
CRJU 4111H Honors Thesis Seminar III
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Hour. 0 Lab Hours.
In a seminar setting, students will continue writing and revising their thesis.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 3112H; minimum junior standing.
CRJU 4112H Honors Thesis Seminar IV
1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Hour. 0 Lab Hours.
Students will complete the final honors thesis and present their findings at a research symposium.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 4111H; minimum junior standing.
CRJU 4135 Directed Study in Justice Studies
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A structured, individualized research focus to be mutually designed and agreed upon by instructor and student. May be used to meet individual needs or interests that students have in various areas of criminal and social justice.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
CRJU 4192 Special Topics
1-3 Credit Hours. 1-3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Scheduled periodically to explore topics not offered in the regular curriculum.
Prerequisite(s): Minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 4192S.
CRJU 4192S Special Topics
1-3 Credit Hours. 1-3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Scheduled periodically to explore topics not offered in the regular curriculum.
Prerequisite(s): Minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.
Cross Listing(s): CRJU 4192.
CRJU 4231 Justice Studies Research Methods
3 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Hours. 1 Lab Hour.
Provides students with an understanding of research and its application in the field of justice studies. Topics include understanding the scientific method, research methodology, inductive and deductive statistics, and data analysis for report preparation. Includes student utilization of computer-based spreadsheets, database management, and interactive statistical packages.
Prerequisite(s): STAT 2231 and a minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 4531 Comparative World Justice Systems
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines the institutions of justice in various countries around the world as well as the variety of international institutions that address questions of justice. The legal, political, philosophic, social, and historical factors underlying these institutions are of primary concern.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 4531S Comparative World Justice Systems
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Examines the institutions of justice in various countries around the world as well as the variety of international institutions that address questions of justice. The legal, political, philosophic, social, and historical factors underlying these institutions are of primary concern.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 4632 Senior Seminar in Justice Studies
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A discussion-based, intensive reading and writing capstone course for Justice Studies majors and minors. Integrates material from the major core courses and addresses current issues and trends in the administration of criminal and social justice.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 4639 Inside-Out
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The "Inside-Out" Prison Exchange Program is an opportunity for a small group of students from Georgia Southern University and residents from a local prison to exchange ideas and perceptions about crime and justice, the criminal justice system, corrections, and imprisonment. All participants will gain a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system through the combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience achieved by weekly meetings extended throughout the semester. Departmental and instructor approval is required before enrolling. Strong preference will be given to seniors. The course is repeatable if the topic is substantively different.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 4733 Theories of Justice
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A consideration of the primary theories of justice formulated through history. Examines and evaluates the theoretical foundations of conceptions of justice from a variety of perspectives.
Prerequisite(s): POLS 1101, or a minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 4733S Theories of Justice
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A consideration of the primary theories of justice formulated through history. Examines and evaluates the theoretical foundations of conceptions of justice from a variety of perspectives.
Prerequisite(s): POLS 1101, or a minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 4792 Internship in Justice Studies
1-9 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Provides students the opportunity to utilize, in a supervised work setting, the knowledge they have gained through their course work. Emphasizes the experiential, professional, and academic development of the student. Students must attain junior or senior status and have the permission of the internship coordinator to enroll.

CRJU 4830 Justice Administration
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Addresses organizational and managerial issues associated with the criminal justice system in respect to the courts, policing, and corrections. Attention is paid to a variety of topics within the context of the criminal justice system, including: staffing and training; leadership, power, and decision-making; organizational change; budgeting, and the selection and use of technology.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100.

CRJU 4930 Justice Studies Honors Thesis
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A substantial research project in Justice Studies structured jointly by a University Honors Program student and faculty mentor, approved by the University Honors Program director.