

# Criminal Justice

## Chair

Lieberman, Joel (1997), Associate Professor; B.A., State University of New York at Stony Brook; M.A., Ph.D., University of Arizona.

## Graduate Coordinator

Lu, Hong (1998), Associate Professor; LL.B., Law School, Fudan University; M.A., Indiana University; Ph.D., Arizona State University.

## Graduate Faculty

Gauthier, Jane (2005), Assistant Professor; B.A., M.A. California State University; Ph.D., Washington State University.

Hart, Timothy (2006), Assistant Professor; B.A., University of Florida; M.A., University of Memphis, Ph.D., University of South Florida.

Kennedy, Alexis (2005), Assistant Professor; B.A., University of Toronto; LL.B., University of Manitoba; M.A., Ph.D., University of British Columbia.

McCorkle, Richard (1990), Associate Professor; B.A., University of North Carolina; M.A., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University.

Miethe, Terance D. (1993), Professor; B.A., Western Washington State College; M.A., Western Washington University; Ph.D., Washington State University.

Shaffer, Deborah (2005), Assistant Professor; B.S., M.A., Indiana State University; Ph.D., University of Cincinnati.

Shelden, Randall G. (1977), Professor; B.A., California State at Los Angeles; M.A., Memphis State University; Ph.D., Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Sousa, William (2004), Assistant Professor; B.A., Stonchill College; M.S., Northeastern University; Ph.D., Rutgers University.

## Associate Graduate Faculty

Hangawatte, Karu (1984), Assistant Professor; LL.B. University of Ceylon; M.A., Ph.D., University of New York at Albany.

The Department of Criminal Justice offers a broad-based graduate program leading to the Master of Arts degree. The program addresses issues of crime and criminal justice within an analytical framework and emphasizes theory and research and their implications for social policy. The curriculum is grounded in the social and behavioral sciences and in legal approaches to crime and social control. It draws from contemporary research and theoretical developments across a spectrum of academic disciplines.

The graduate program in criminal justice offers two degree options. The Traditional Master of Arts degree is designed to prepare students for doctoral studies in the field and in related areas of the social and behavioral sciences. Those who obtain this degree may also assume teaching positions at the community college level. The Professional Master's degree is designed to serve the needs of professionals currently working in justice-related agencies by providing the knowledge and skills to enhance their performance in current positions and/or prepare them for career advancement. Both degrees require a minimum of 36 semester hours of study. Students enrolled in the Traditional Master of Arts degree track are required to complete a scholarly thesis. Students seeking the Professional Master's degree must pass a comprehensive examination.

## Traditional Master of Arts Degree Program

The Traditional Master of Arts degree program is designed to improve a student's understanding of the nature, causes, and consequences of crime and crime control. Based on the tradition of the liberal arts, the program emphasizes the symbiotic relationship between crime and the structure of society and the interplay between criminal justice theory and practice. These relationships are explored through course work in criminological theory, law and social control, the administration of justice, and crime and public policy. By completing the requirements for this program, students will be prepared for teaching at the community college level and doctoral study in crime and criminal justice.

## Admission Requirements for the Traditional Master of Arts Degree Program

1. An undergraduate degree in criminal justice or related social or behavioral science with a minimum GPA of 2.75 for all undergraduate work and a 3.00 for the last two years of undergraduate work is required for admission to the program. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission, but strongly encouraged.
2. A Criminal Justice Graduate Program Application Cover Page (obtained from the department) must be completed.
3. A statement of purpose for pursuing the Master of Arts Degree, addressing the student's particular interests in the field of criminal justice and his or her future academic and/or professional goals, must be provided at the time of application.
4. Two letters of recommendation are required from former professors or other professionals who can evaluate the applicant's ability to do graduate-level work in criminal justice.
5. Application forms, fees, official transcripts, test results and assistantship applications are submitted to the Graduate College. Submit an additional copy of official transcripts, the two letters of recommendation, and the statement of purpose, along with the Application Cover Page, directly to the department.
6. International Students. Applicants who are citizens of a country where English is not the native language must show competency in the English language. As part of the entrance requirements, they must take the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) and receive a minimum score of 550 (written) or 213 (computerized). International applicants must also submit a completed financial statement before their application can be reviewed and should check with the Graduate College regarding application procedures.

### **Degree Requirements for the Traditional Master of Arts Degree Program**

1. Completion of 36 credits of graduate study at the 600 and 700 levels.
2. Completion of CRJ 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, and 705. An additional six credits in elective, graduate-level criminal justice courses are required. A maximum of nine credits of 600-level course is allowed.
3. Students may elect up to six credits of approved graduate study in other social or behavioral sciences or in graduate programs formally approved by the Department of Criminal Justice.
4. All students enrolled in the Traditional Master of Arts Degree Program in Criminal Justice are required to write a thesis. The thesis will be written under the direction of a committee of three graduate faculty and chaired by a member of the faculty in Criminal Justice. One member of the thesis committee is a graduate faculty member from outside the Department of Criminal Justice. Six credits of graduate work (797) will be awarded upon successful completion of the thesis.
5. Upon completion of the course work and thesis, an oral examination related to the general field and thesis is required of all students. The examination will be administered by the student's thesis committee and a representative from outside the department chosen by the Graduate College. The oral examination will assess 1) the student's competency in defending the substantive, theoretical, and methodological topics covered by the thesis and 2) his or her general knowledge, including the ability to integrate topics covered by core and elective criminal justice classes and to apply core fundamentals to important issues.
6. Consistent progress toward the degree and maintenance of a cumulative 3.00 grade point average are required for continuation in and completion of the program.

### **Professional Master's Degree Program**

Designed for the full-time criminal justice professional, the Professional Master's Degree Program in Criminal Justice provides students with advanced knowledge of the nature of crime, criminal justice institutions and processes, current criminal justice policy and training in research methods, statistics, and program evaluation. The program will also be open to students seeking a terminal master's degree and a career in the criminal justice system. Upon completion of the program, students will have furthered their understanding of crime, the criminal justice system, and be able to conduct evaluations of policies and programs within various agencies in the justice system. This program is structured so that enrolled students can complete the program in two years of part-time study (six credit hours per regular semester and six credit hours during the summer sessions).

Recognizing most full-time professionals have schedules that often preclude attendance during regular class times, the program utilizes a variety of distance education techniques, including prerecorded and compressed video, and online instruction.

### **Admission Requirements for the Professional Master's Degree Program**

1. An undergraduate degree in criminal justice or related social or behavioral science with a minimum GPA of 2.75 for all undergraduate work and a 3.00 for the last two years of undergraduate work is required for admission to the program. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission.
2. A Criminal Justice Graduate Program Application Cover Page (obtained from the department) must be completed.
3. A Statement of Purpose for pursuing the Professional Master's Degree, addressing the student's particular interests in the field of criminal justice and his or her professional goals, will be provided at the time of the student's application.
4. Two letters of reference are required from former professors or other professionals who can evaluate the applicant's ability to do graduate-level work in criminal justice.
5. Application forms, fees, and official transcripts are submitted to the Graduate College. Submit an additional copy of official transcripts, the two letters of recommendation, and the statement of purpose, along with the Application Cover Page, directly to the department.
6. International Students. Applicants who are citizens of a country where English is not the native language must show competency in the English language. As part of the entrance requirements, they must take the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) and receive a minimum score of 550 (written) or 213 (computerized). International applicants must also submit a completed financial statement before their application can be reviewed and should check with the Graduate College regarding application procedures.

### **Degree Requirements for the Professional Master's Degree Program**

1. Completion of 36 credits of graduate study at the 600 and 700 levels.
2. Required courses are CRJ 700, 702, 703, 705, and one course from either one of the following areas: 1. Criminology (CRJ 701, 706, 709, 710, 713, and 714); and 2. Criminal Justice Institutions (CRJ 704, 707, 708, 712, 715). An additional nine credits in elective, graduate level criminal justice courses are required. A maximum of nine credits of 600-level course is allowed.
3. An additional nine credits of electives from the prescribed list of noncriminal justice courses are required for the degree. Students may fulfill elective non-CRJ requirement with additional graduate studies in criminal justice.
4. All students enrolled in the Professional Master's Degree in the Professional Master's Degree in Criminal Justice will be required to pass a comprehensive examination. Three credits of graduate work (CRJ 796) will be awarded upon successful completion of the examination.

## *Criminal Justice*

### **CRJ 700** 3 credits

#### **Proseminar in Criminal Justice**

Provides an introduction to graduate studies in Criminal Justice. Students are exposed to information regarding the main components of the criminal justices system, including: law enforcement, courts, and the correctional system. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice.

### **CRJ 701** 3 credits

#### **Proseminar on Theory**

History of criminological thought. Contemporary and classical theories of crime. Attention to social, cultural, and psychological perspectives. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 702** 3 credits

#### **Proseminar on Research Methods**

Methods and applications of quantitative and qualitative research. Relationships among theory, research, and social policy. Development and interpretation of research reports. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor and satisfactory completion of an undergraduate course in research methods.

### **CRJ 703** 3 credits

#### **Proseminar on Statistics**

Univariate and multivariate techniques. Use of computerized statistical packages in the social and behavioral sciences. Practical applications in statistical problem-solving using primary and secondary data sources. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor and satisfactory completion of an undergraduate statistics course.

### **CRJ 704** 3 credits

#### **Proseminar on Law and Social Control**

Nature of law and legal institutions. Relationships between law and other forms of social control. Theory and research on the development and implementation of law. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 705** 3 credits

#### **Proseminar on the Administration of Justice**

Structures, functions, and operations of criminal justice organizations. Formal and informal organizational structures and their relationships to the broader social, political, and legal institutions. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 706** 3 credits

#### **Seminar on the Nature of Crime**

Investigation of selected theoretical perspectives and particular types of crime and criminality. Specific subject matter varies by semester. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 707** 3 credits

#### **Policing**

Police organization and subculture, occupational socialization, police community relations, occupational deviance, policy formation, and related issues discussed. Specific subject matter varies by semester. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 708** 3 credits

#### **Seminar on Law and Legal Process**

Development and implementation of criminal law. May focus on issues related to the legislative process, the criminal courts, case law, and legal reform. Specific subject matter varies by semester. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 709** 3 credits

#### **Delinquency and Juvenile Justice**

Historical development and current practices of juvenile courts and treatment institutions. Emphasis on the relationship between delinquency theory, research, and policy formulation, with particular attention to programs of delinquency prevention. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 710** 3 credits

#### **Crime and Its Control in Gambling**

Analytical approach to patterns of gambling in America, nature of organized crime involvement, and development and implementation of forms of social control of organized crime in the area. Particular attention given to patterns of crime and regulatory control in Nevada gambling. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 711** 3 credits

#### **Criminological Research**

Correlates of crime and theory-based research on crime causation. Implications for the major theoretical perspectives. Prerequisites: CRJ 701 and CRJ 702, graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 712** 3 credits

#### **Punishment and Corrections**

Philosophies and practices of punishment and corrections. Contemporary theory, the prison environment, work and rehabilitation programs, parole, overcrowding, capital punishment, and alternatives to imprisonment. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

### **CRJ 713** 3 credits

#### **Victimization**

Problems confronted by victims of crime. The role of the victim in criminal offenses. Policy, advocacy issues, and victims' rights. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

**CRJ 714** **3 credits**  
**Theory Construction**

Types of theory and levels of theoretical analysis. Empirical, logical, and conceptual considerations in the construction of theory. Problems and prospects for theoretical integration and the development of general theory. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in criminal justice, and CRJ 701 and CRJ 702, consent of instructor.

**CRJ 715** **3 credits**  
**Criminal Justice Policy**

Contemporary policies in criminal justice. Relationships among theory, policy, and practice. Attention to public opinion, legislative process, law enforcement administration, the courts, appellate review, issues of intergroup conflict, and civil rights. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor.

**CRJ 716** **3 credits**  
**Graduate Readings in Criminal Justice**

With faculty supervision, students pursue a personalized program of readings related to specific issues in criminal justice. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor, and CRJ 701 and CRJ 702.

**CRJ 724** **3 credits**  
**Applied Research in Criminal Justice**

Survey of research and statistical methods appropriate for evaluating criminal justice programs. Nature and role of program evaluation; impact and process assessment; presentation and interpretation of statistical results, ethics and politics of evaluation research. Prerequisites: CRJ 701, 702, 703.

**CRJ 796** **3 credits**  
**Comprehensive Examination**

As part of the requirements for the Professional Degree Program, students must pass a written comprehensive examination designed to test students' ability to synthesize a body of knowledge in criminal justice. Prerequisites: CRJ 700, CRJ 702, CRJ 703, CRJ 705.

**CRJ 797** **3 credits**  
**Master's Thesis in Criminal Justice**

Development of a research design and analysis of data relating to an issue of theoretical and empirical significance. Students expected to display the ability to integrate the elements of the core courses and related program of study. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. S/F grading only. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in criminal justice, consent of instructor, and CRJ 701, 702, 703, 704, and 705.

**CRJ 798** **3 credits**  
**Applied Project in Criminal Justice**

Research application in criminal justice or an evaluation of a specific criminal justice program. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisites: CRJ 701-705, and 724.

**CRJ 799** **3 credits**  
**Independent Study in Criminal Justice**

Directed research on an issue of contemporary significance in criminal justice, culminating in the development of a research paper. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisites: Graduate standing in criminal justice or consent of instructor, and CRJ 701 and CRJ 702.

The following 600-level courses have been approved for graduate credit. Full descriptions of these courses may be found in the *Undergraduate Catalog* under the corresponding 400 number.

- CRJ 605 History of Criminal Justice
- CRJ 611 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems
- CRJ 628 Women and Crime
- CRJ 636 Sociology of Law
- CRJ 641 Social Science in Law