



MASTER SYLLABUS
(Generic Outline)

Administrative Unit: Criminal Justice Administration and Social Work Department
Course Prefix and Number: MSCJ 501
Course Title: Current Issues and Future Directions in Criminal Justice

DIGITAL DESCRIPTIONS

STUDENT DESCRIPTION:
Cr Hrs - # Lec Hrs - # Lab Hrs
3 - 3 - 0

PAY-HOUR DESCRIPTION:
Total # = Lec Hrs + Lab Hrs
3 = 3 + 0 X 2/3

Catalog Description: This course is an examination of the salient, current critical issues in the justice system affecting law enforcement, criminal justice personnel, public policy, and recent social developments. Must be taken as a foundational course for the Master of Science of Criminal Justice.

Additional Information: The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a comprehensive understanding of the various issues confronting criminal justice in the 20th century. The material is presented from a legal, criminological, historical and social systems perspective so that the student will develop an understanding of the different social, economic, political, and practical issues in developing a workable public policy as it relates to criminal justice.

The student should, upon course completion, be able to explain the goals and objectives of policing, corrections, courts, and the juvenile justice system as well as any related issues involving current or anticipated public policy. In addition to the areas of study discussed above, learning experiences will include guest speakers, field trips and the use of computer-based decision software relative to the topics studied in the course.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: Graduate standing and foundational course.

Text: More, Harry W. (2000) Special Topics in Policing, 2nd ed., Anderson Publishing Co.
Muraskin, R. & A. R. Roberts (1999), Visions for change, 2nd ed., Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of the problems and issues relating to all aspects of the criminal justice system. The course is designed to allow for debate, discussion and interaction between professor and students

in a mature forum of understanding the improvement of public policy. The student should, upon course completion, be able to identify the most critical issues in our criminal justice system while offering workable and realistic solutions to them.

Topical Outline:

- I. Issues in management and organization
- II. Minorities in criminal justice
- III. Working with the ADA
- IV. Police deviance and corruption
- V. Criminal justice ethics
- IV. Stress in criminal justice agencies
- VII. Community-based policing
- VIII. Use of force
- IX. Treatment of offenders
- X. Legal issues in the justice system
- XI. Probation, parole and the community
- XII. Youthful offenders
- XIII. Criminal justice programs
- XIV. Programs for youth
- XV. Terrorism

Recommended maximum class size for this course: _____ 15 _____

Prepared by: _____ Michael Lyman, Ph.D. _____
Name Signature

Date: _____ December 21, 2001 _____

NOTE: The intention of this master course syllabus is to provide a general outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught, or where it is taught. This generic outline is not intended to restrict the way any individual faculty member teaches the course. The master syllabus, therefore, should be general enough to allow for a diversity of individual approaches to teaching the course, while at the same time it provides guidance on what the course should cover.