
CRIME, LAW, AND JUSTICE STUDIES

Director: Tanya Erzen, *Crime, Law and Justice Studies and Religion, Spirituality, and Society*

Advisory Committee: Chris Kendall, *Politics and Government*; Sara Freeman, *Theater*

About the Program

The Crime, Law and Justice (CLJ) Interdisciplinary program provides students with an introduction to how crime, policing, and prisons intersect with questions of justice, fairness, and structural inequality in the United States. In the minor, students examine law, policing and carceral systems from multiple disciplines while retaining a critical lens on these systems and institutions. The minor provides students with a background on the complex histories, policies and societal implications of crime, law and justice systems. By looking at practice, policy and research, students explore questions such as: When do an individual's rights matter more than a group's rights? How does racism structure the criminal legal system? What is the role of police in a democratic society? What is the difference between law and justice? How has the US criminal legal system defined justice over time and in different contexts?

The minor explicitly examines questions of social justice—concerns related to equality, fairness, freedom, security, and social order—as it intersects with criminal law and policing systems. Students in the minor have multiple opportunities for experiential learning in joint accredited classes, research partnerships, and study halls with students in the University of Puget Sound Liberal Studies BA degree program in the Washington Correction Center for Women. The connection to the college in prison program enables main campus students to co-learn with people most directly impacted by crime, law and justice systems. The program fosters a culture of collaboration, empowerment and critical engagement between undergraduate students inside and outside the prison.

Through the capstone project, students directly connect with an organization in the field and learn to create and articulate grounded, people-centered, empirically-informed, and sustainable solutions to social problems in communities and/or institutions. The minor equips students to be leaders, professionals, and agents of change in justice-related institutions and in diverse local and global communities.

The minor consists of a set of scaffolded courses that begins with a required overview of the criminal legal system in relation to the question of justice. The next required class (there are two options) provides a theoretical and historical grounding in crime, law, and justice that includes an opportunity for experiential learning. There are three areas of electives: law, social justice, and carceral systems. Students must take classes in at least two different elective areas. Finally, the minor culminates in a .5 Capstone Project.

General Requirements for the Major or Minor

General university degree requirements stipulate that 1) at least four units of the major or three units of the minor be taken in residence at Puget Sound; 2) students earn a GPA of 2.0 in courses taken for the major or minor; and 3) all courses taken for a major or minor must be taken for graded credit. Any exceptions to these stipulations are indicated in the major or minor degree requirements listed below.

Requirements for the Minor

1. CLJ 220 Introduction to Crime Law and Justice Studies
2. CLJ 307/REL 307 Prisons, Justice, Education
or CN 318 Crime and punishment
3. Three Electives (in at least two different areas)

Law

- PG 315 Law and Society
- PG 316 Civil Liberties
- PG 313 American Constitutional Law
- PG 333 International Law in Political Context
- AFAM 365: African Americans and American Law
- PG 348/PHL348 Philosophy of Law
- REL 420 Law and Religion
- COMM 346: Rhetoric and the Law

Social Justice

- AFAM/REL 265 Thinking Ethically: What is Justice?
- AFAM 304: Capital and Captivity
- AFAM 320 Race, Power, Privilege
- PG 345 Intersectionality as Theory and Method
- PG 304 Race and American Politics
- RE L270 Religion, Activism and Social Justice
- EXLN 215: Youth Development for Social Justice

Crime, Policing and the Carceral State

- PG 311 Politics of Detention: Criminal Justice, Immigration, and the War on Terror
- PG 330: Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation in Latin America
- PHIL 370 Social and Political Philosophy
- SOAN 314 Criminology
- SOAN 206 Theories of Deviance and Social Control
- STS 354 Murder and Mayhem under the Microscope

4. CLJ 410 Capstone Course

Other courses may be added to this list on a semester-by-semester basis.

Course Offerings

220 Intro to Crime, Law & Justice The class serves as an introduction to the Crime, Law and Justice Studies minor through an interdisciplinary approach. The course uses approaches from history, sociology, ethnography, critical theory and literature to examine the sequence of events that occur in the criminal legal system to address the following questions and topics: Is our system just? What is crime, and what are some theories that claim to explain "criminality"? How did the US criminal legal process and procedures emerge, and how do they function today? What is the history of policing and the police, and what are current issues that shape policing today? What happens once a person is caught up in the criminal legal process, and what role do judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and forensics play in that process? In the small percentage of cases that proceed to trial, what happens, and what are the options for the person? What happens after, and do prisons administer just punishment? What about after prison?

The driving question of the course is what it means to have and create a just system and for whom, and how does race, gender, sexuality and other categories of identity shape how a person experiences this sequence of often inevitable events. To understand complex issues like Crime, Law and Justice, we will use numerous case studies and stories such as Kalief Browder, a 16-year who spent years in Rikers Island Prison without a conviction, and whose case spurred the movement to close Rikers. We look at how judges and prosecutors make decisions in a Cleveland Courthouse, how one man experienced the death penalty, and read short stories that imagine societies with different ways of administering justice. This class will have multiple class visits including a

Juvenile Prison superintendent, a police officer, people who have been in prison, a lawyer with the Clemency project and others.

410 Capstone The purpose of this .5 seminar is to provide students with guidance and a supportive environment in which to pursue an independent research project that will serve as the culmination of their minor in Crime, Law and Justice Studies. The course allows students, in consultation with the CLJ director, to reflect upon, evaluate, and apply the knowledge they have gained in their course work with an institution, group or organization related to crime, law and justice. Students conduct research for or about the organization, which might include archival research, interviews or participant observation. Students identify themes, as well as particular questions and/or methodological comparisons to create connections between their coursework and the organization. The culmination of the seminar is project in a paper or non-paper format that they present to the class. For example, a student who focused on carceral systems might choose to work with an organization or with a legislator involved in prison reform and write about that experience. A student focusing on forensics and policing could examine how the Tacoma police utilize forensic science through a video, zine or slide presentation. A student focused on law and race in the US could shadow a lawyer at the Defenders Association or Civil Survival and create a video about it or write a paper, short story or art installation.