COLLEGE/SCHOOL/SECTION: Arts & sciences _Behavioral Sciences/Criminal Justice___

Course: Add: X__ Delete: ___ Change: __

Number: CRIJ 3330
Title: The Mentally Ill and the Criminal Justice System
SCH: _3__

Description:
This course will explore the many ways in which the mentally ill may have contact with the criminal justice system. This course will discuss the way in which mental illness is diagnosed and address the way in which the police, courts and corrections deal with mentally ill offenders. Topics may include: diversion of mentally ill offenders, competency, the insanity defense, the use of expert psychiatric testimony, mental health courts, the concept of prisons and jails as the new asylums, and correctional and community treatment programs.

Tentatively planned text: The Criminalization of Mental Illness, Slate and Johnson, Carolina Academic Press, 2008; other readings will be collected and disseminated.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Justification:
This course will provide students with a unique introduction to the many challenges that offenders with mental illness can bring to bear on the criminal justice system. It will challenge students to think critically about how the police, courts and corrections handling with offenders with mental illness and in what ways this handling might be improved. It will also challenge students to think critically about the role of the criminal justice system itself and whether treatment of offenders with mental illness is an appropriate goal.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:
After completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate in both exams and writing:
1. Explain the difficulty of defining and diagnosing mental illness
2. Describe the concept of diversion of offenders with mental illness
3. Describe the ways in which the police, courts and corrections may have contact with mentally ill offenders
4. Apply and assess the literature on mental health courts
5. Explain the difficulty of treating incarcerated offenders with mental illness and of providing aftercare in the community
**Response Required:** New course will be part of major __ minor ___ as a required ___ or elective X__ course

**Response Required:** New course will introduce x__, reinforce ___, or apply ___ concepts

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**Approvals:**

Chair  
Department Curriculum Committee  
Chair  
Department  
Chair  
College Curriculum Committee  
Dean

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**Signature**  
Frances Bernat  
Dean  
Department Curriculum Committee  
James A Norris  
Dean  
College Curriculum Committee  
Kevin Lindberg  
Dean

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**Date**