

**CATALOG YEAR 2012-2013**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

Approvals:	Signature	Date
Chair Department Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Chair Department	_____	_____
Chair College Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Dean	_____	_____

04/2011