

**CATALOG YEAR 2012-2013**COLLEGE/SCHOOL/SECTION: COASCourse: Add: X Delete: (check all that apply) Change: Number Title SCH Description Prerequisite **Response Required:** New course will be part of major minor as a required or elective X course**Response Required:** New course will introduce , reinforce X, or apply concepts

If new, provide Course Prefix, Number, Title, **Measurable** Student Learning Outcomes, SCH Value, Description, prerequisite, and lecture/lab hours if applicable. If in current online catalog, provide change and attach text with changes in red and provide a brief justification.

CRIJ 4335 Death Penalty
Three semester hours

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide the student with an overview of the death penalty both in the United States and abroad. Special attention is devoted to the history of the death penalty, Supreme Court decisions, and current statutory laws. Contemporary issues surrounding the death penalty including potential flaws in the administration of justice and alternative sanctions such as life without the possibility of parole are also covered.

Justification: Currently, courses in our program provide a cursory examination of the death penalty. This course will provide students with an in-depth analysis of the death penalty. It will examine historical and contemporary rulings by the Supreme Court that will allow students to better understand the U.S. Constitution and the Court's rationale for upholding the constitutionality of the death penalty. This course also allows students to examine sentencing options in other countries and examine alternative sentences such as life without the possibility of parole.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss, verbally and in a written exam, the history of the death penalty in the United States and abroad.
2. Explain, verbally and in a written exam, case law and current legal opinions on the death penalty.
3. Compare and contrast, verbally and in a written exam, U.S. laws with international law and evolving world opinions on the death penalty.
4. Analyze potential flaws in the administration of the death penalty in writing via the submission of a research paper.

Approvals:

Signature

Date

Chair

Department Curriculum Committee

Chair

Department

Chair

College Curriculum Committee

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04/2011