Course: Add: X Delete: Change: 

Number: CRIJ 5338
Title: Offenders with Mental Illness
SCH: 3

Description:
Since widespread deinstitutionalization in the mid-20th century, an increasing number of people with mental illness have come into contact with the criminal justice system. This course will explore the forces that set deinstitutionalization into motion and the outcome of this process as well as the way in which law enforcement, courts and corrections deal with offenders with mental illness. This course will also explore legal issues that are pertinent to this group. Importantly, this course provides a realistic depiction of the concept and practice of criminal justice in 21st century America.

Required text:

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

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 handle 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. Importantly, this course adds to a growing list of electives available to master's level criminal justice students.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, it is expected that each student will be able to:
1. Describe the treatment of the mentally ill in the U.S. prior to and during the 20th and 21st centuries.
2. Explain the process of deinstitutionalization and its outcomes, particularly for persons with mental illness and for the criminal justice system.
3. Analyze the various approaches criminal justice system actors have taken toward persons with mental illness.
4. Identify the intersections of mental illness and criminal law and describe the impact of court rulings on these issues.
5. Analyze proposed solutions to the problems and issues this population faces within and outside of the criminal justice system.

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:

Chair
Department Curriculum Committee

Chair
Department

Chair
College Curriculum Committee

Dean

Signature

James A Norris

Date

Lynne L. Mangano

Date

Thomas R. Mitchell

Date

Provost’s Signature

Date