

CONCENTRATION AREA: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Master of Liberal Arts Criminal Justice program objective is to provide student learners with the tools and training necessary to produce literary scholarship of professional quality and to participate in the ongoing academic discussions of issues in the fields of Criminal Justice.

CURRICULUM

Core Courses

ILA 500 Introduction to Liberal Arts

The Liberal Arts are academic disciplines which study the human condition. This course introduces students to the academic disciplines that promote a sense of humanity. During this quarter, we will study music, art, oral communications, literature, and philosophy by critically thinking about moral values, myths, aesthetics, and liberty; all of this within historical frameworks. It is designed to reawaken our sense of wonder and curiosity about the meaning of life. It shows how the various arts and sciences intersect, influence and are influenced by cultural and historical circumstances.

ILA 501 Research in the Liberal Arts

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to empirical research and a variety of research approaches common to the field liberal arts. Upon completing the course, participants will be able to locate, understand, evaluate, and interpret qualitative as well as quantitative educational research and use these skills to identify possible Thesis or Project topics.

Required Courses

CJ 501 Advanced Constitutional Law and Criminal Justice

This course examines the criminal justice system in the context of the United States Constitution. Given that the United States Constitution determines the processes and definitions of Justice in our society, this course examine the history and origins of legal doctrine as it relates to the practices of today's criminal justice system as well as its actors.

CJ 502 Advanced Criminal Investigation

An extensive examination of the investigation process to include: historical origins of criminal investigation, the investigative method, note taking and reporting, crime scene focus, interviewing, the sources of information, special investigation, investigation in court, and the future of criminal investigations.

CJ 505 Advanced Corrections

This course provides an in-depth analysis and understanding of the measures used as means of "correcting" offenders (jail, prison, probation, and parole) without confinement. This course also discusses the history of corrections in America, the various opinions on punishment and rehabilitation, and the current trends in community control and juvenile intervention. The course also provides an overview of the correctional philosophies, practices, and procedures.

CJ 506 Advanced Criminal Law

This course introduces the student to the social, political, and psychological perspectives of criminal law. It offers an analysis of factors necessary to establish proof of a crime and the limits of the law.

CJ 507 Advanced Budgeting and Financial Management

This course is intended to provide Criminal Justice graduates an overview of public agency budgeting and financial management. Public agency budgets are the means by which public resources are allocated and, as such, are central to the role of government. The course will provide an overview of the budget process, including the players and the strategies they employ, as well as provide students with the practical skills involved in understanding, analyzing and preparing budgets. More so, the goal of this course is to develop a foundation of financial management concepts. This will enable the student to understand how corporations make important investment and financing decisions, and how they establish working capital policies.

CJ 510 Advanced Criminal Justice System

An intense survey course designed to provide a general theoretical understanding of the criminal justice system, the source of crime and society's reaction to crime. Students will be able to explain the interdependent operations of the major components of the criminal justice system and the political, legal, and ethical environments in which they operate.

CJ 511 Advanced Judicial Process and Policy Making

This course is an advanced study of the organizational structure and workloads of the federal and state judicial systems. Emphasis is placed on the nature of crime and on the various procedures prior to a criminal trial: the arrest, the appearance before a magistrate, the grand jury process, the arraignment, and the possibility of plea bargain. We will also explore the policy impact made by federal and state courts and analyze the process by which judicial rulings are implemented and some are not.

Capstone

ILA 599 Capstone Project

Students will complete a variety of projects and written assignments designed to encourage self-analysis of career and intellectual interests in the student's chosen career field based on the concentration area that was selected by the learner.