

Department _Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work

Course Number __SOCL 215__

Course Name: Media & Crime

Check box for Honors course consideration ☐

Submission Checklist

Proposal _____

Syllabus _____

UCC Proposal for new course _____

AREA OF INQUIRY

IDENTITY, INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES

This form must be submitted to the Liberal Learning Council as part of the submission process.

Please attach a proposed syllabus for this course and the Undergraduate Curriculum Course Proposal Form, if new course.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: 1 October 2006

Please answer the following questions:

Check Only One:

◇ This course is an existing course (in the current curriculum) that we are now proposing for this Area of Inquiry.

X This is a new course that we are now proposing for this Area of Inquiry.

This is a new 200 level course.

1. Name and contact information of the curriculum point person for the department administrating this course.

Mai Lan Gustafsson

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594-7872

2. In any given semester, how many sections of this course is your department willing to offer?

Twice each year in the spring semester.

3. Why is this course being offered/what is it designed to achieve (Course purpose/goal)?

For most American citizens the main source of information about crime comes through the media. This course is designed to give students an opportunity to compare and contrast the images of crime in the media (e.g., news, t.v., movies) with the reality of crime as it exists in our society today. In addition the course will address two effects of the media on society: the misperception of crime fighting careers (e.g., Crime Scene Investigators) and adding to the culture of fear. This course will compare media images with actual information crime and criminal justice careers, so students can better informed about these issues.

4. Check the learner objectives below that the course will address. The first objective is required and every proposal must include at least two more objectives from the list below.

X a.) Identify concepts, patterns, and issues that affect the organization of societies, shape individual thought, or shape social mores (**required**)

◇ b.) Compare and contrast the effects of these concepts, patterns and issues on individuals, cultural institutions, or societies

X c.) Identify an institutional or societal structure (or structures) and its (or their) influence on individuals

◇ d.) Explain the fluid role of the individual within society (reflecting the multiple and sometimes contradictory roles of individuals within society)

X e.) Recognize the influence of societal or cultural context on self and others as individuals

◇ f.) Objectively and critically evaluate concepts of self and individuality

5. Briefly explain how this class addresses each objective checked in #4. Be sure to indicate the objective by its letter. A course may cover more than three objectives.

Objective a:

This course will expose students to two patterns with the goal of comparing them: the patterns of how crime is portrayed in the media, and the actual patterns of crime and law enforcement as they exist in society. Further, the effects of both media portrayals of crime and actual criminal patterns on the mindset of ordinary citizens will be examined.

Objective c:

This course is examining the institution of the media and its influences on individuals' perceptions and fear of crime. Specifically, it will expose students to the people and organizations that manipulate our perceptions of crime and profit from our anxieties.

Objective e:

This course will explore the culture of fear and how it has influenced individual behavior and American culture.

6. Course Assessment: **Check below how this course will accomplish the objectives in #5 (choose at least one).**

X Participating in class discussion and debate

X Engaging in teamwork and other collaborative exercises

◇ Writing analytical or evaluative papers, perhaps incorporating original research

◇ Making oral presentations

◇ Creating an artistic product or a performance

◇ Participating in fieldwork

X Other means – please identify

Three exams

Additionally, in this class we would ideally like to expose students to criminal justice careers by providing them with the opportunity to do ride alongs with police and go on field trips to crime labs, courts, news stations (or other media outlets), and nonprofit agencies etc. However, the ability to do so depends upon the size of the class, the number of sections offered, and the generosity of local agencies willing to accommodate such opportunities.

7. Attach a proposed syllabus, which includes a statement of purpose, course objectives, and how these objectives will be accomplished.

8. Explain how this course connects to Vision 2010 – the CNU Strategic Plan (<http://www.cnu.edu/Vision2010>
The links are down the left side of the page.)

Part of Vision 2010 is to “support learning that cultivates critical and innovative thinking” and this course can accomplish this by enabling students to differentiate between media images and the reality of crime in American and the effects of both on society.

Per Vision 2010, this course allows students to be engaged with the community and prepares them for lives as civic minded citizens. To achieve this within the course we will do one or more of the following: invite members of the media, criminal justice system and nonprofit agencies to speak in class; fieldtrips to agencies such as crime labs, news stations, etc; and individual student observation of various local media outlets, criminal justice and nonprofit agencies.

Christopher Newport University
Media & Crime

Texts:

Bohm, Robert M., and Walker, Jeffrey T. (2006). Demystifying Crime and Criminal Justice. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury Publishing Company.

Glassner, Barry. (1999). The Culture of Fear: Why Americans are Afraid of the Wrong Things. Basic Books.

Potter, Gary W., and Kappeler, Victor E. Constructing Crime: Perspectives on Making News and Social Problems, 2nd Ed. Waveland Press, Inc.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

The primary goal of this course is for students to learn how to differentiate between the media depictions of crime and the reality of crime in America. The objectives of the class are:

1. Identify concepts, patterns, and issues that affect the organization of societies, shape individual thought, or shape social mores
2. Identify an institutional or societal structure (or structures) and its (or their) influence on individuals
3. Recognize the influence of societal or cultural context on self and others as individuals

Attendance Policy:

Class attendance is expected. The exams will cover information presented in class as well as the readings. If you miss a class, I will not give you that material. You must obtain the notes from another student. Students who discontinue class attendance without officially dropping the course or withdrawing from the University will receive an F grade.

Class Environment:

We will discuss controversial topics in this class. You will, most likely, be confronted with ideas that differ from your own personal beliefs, values and opinions. Discussion of these differences is an essential part of the learning process. You are expected to be respectful to others and their beliefs in the classroom.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity requires that you do your own work, do not cheat and do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's ideas and/or words without giving him/her due credit, whether by intention or omission. Academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism will at the minimum result in a zero grade for that assignment/exam and/or portion your grade. It may also result in failure of the class and being reported for an Honor Code violation.

Students with Disabilities:

If you believe that you have a disability, you should make an appointment to discuss your needs. In order to receive an accommodation, your disability must be on record in Disability Services located in the Academic Advising Center, Student Union, Room 3125 (Telephone - 594-8763; Fax - 594-8765).

If you have any questions, please call Debbie Witt at 594-8763. Documentation regarding a specific disability is required for accommodation arrangements. Confidentiality of the information received will be maintained.

Exams:

There will be _____ exams during the course of the semester. The exams will each count for _____ of your grade. All exams are mandatory. There will be no make-up exams, except for verified University approved reasons (i.e., written/signed medical excuses from your doctor or hospital). Make-up exams may be essay exams. If you have extenuating circumstances see me prior to the exam to make other arrangements. Make-ups will be scheduled at my discretion or during the final exam period (You will have no longer than the scheduled time period to take the final exam. Thus, you must take the make-up exam and the final exam within the allotted final exam period.).

Quizzes, Assignments and Class Participation:

Throughout the semester there will be pop quizzes, assignments, group assignments, in class work and class participation that will count for _____ of your grade. Assignments unless specified otherwise are to be typed (double spaced, 1" margins and Times New Roman 12 point font). Assignments are to be turned in by you during class the day they are due.

**UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM**

Is the course being proposed for the Liberal Learning Core? Yes X No _____

1. Title of Course: Media & Crime

Proposed Course Number (cleared with Registrar): **SOCL 2xx**

Prerequisite Courses: None

If the minimum acceptable grade in a prerequisite course is greater than the default of D-, indicate the grade required _____ and state the reason for requiring this minimum grade (consider consistency across the department):

Catalogue Description (including credits, lecture, and lab hours):

An analysis of the media's portrayal of crime and crime fighters comparing these images with the reality of crime in American society. Focuses on the two effects of the media on society: the misperception of crime fighting careers (e.g., Crime Scene Investigators) and adding to the culture of fear. Includes an analysis of the culture of fear and how it has influenced individual behavior and American culture.

Is the course cross-listed? If so, what is the number of the other course? NO

****A proposed syllabus, including complete text and/or reference information, as well as any relevant information to this decision, must be appended.**

NOTE: All affected department chairs must sign approval on last page.

2. For whom is the course primarily intended? Explain why it should be added to the curriculum.

The course is primarily intended for freshman. Every academic year, colleges across the country, CNU included; welcome new students who are interested in crime and criminal justice and may be considering a career in criminal justice. The primary motivator for these choices is, not surprisingly, the media's somewhat glamorous picture of crime fighting and detective work. This course is designed as an introduction to both crime in the media and crime in real life and the effects of both on individuals and society with the goal of allowing students to distinguish between them, so as to more carefully examine their academic and career decisions.

3. If this course is required, append a description of how the course fits into the curriculum. Indicate how it affects hours required for graduation.

4. Has this course been offered previously as a special topics course? If so, when? What course number was used?

NO

5. Has this course, or one closely related to it, been offered at CNU previously?

If so, is that course currently being offered? How does the proposed course differ? When is the last term the old course will be offered?

Government 243 surveys crime and the criminal justice system. This course will enhance and expand upon the knowledge learned in Government 243 by including an investigation of the media's role in framing issues of

crime and criminal justice. Students who take both of these courses will receive an interdisciplinary approach to the study of crime and criminal justice.

6. What is the anticipated enrollment per offering for the next three years? _70 (35 in each section)

During which term will this course first be offered?

Fall 20___ Spring 2008_ Summer 20___

During which semesters will this course regularly be offered?

Fall 20___ Spring 20_X_ Summer 20___

Print in the _____ (academic year) Undergraduate Catalog.

7. How will the course be staffed?

Sociology department has at least two faculty that can teach this course.

8. Does the course involve a particular classroom, special equipment, or costs beyond those usually associated with a course at CNU? If so, please explain.

This course requires Smart classroom in order to incorporate media into class lectures and discussions.

9. Is the course repeatable for additional credit? If so, is there a limit to the number of times the course can be repeated? (e.g., applied music courses)

NO

10. If this course is for an Area of Inquiry

a. Identify the Area of Inquiry __Identities, Institutions and Societies_____

b. Demonstrate how your course will meet the objectives of this Area of Inquiry

Objective a: Identify concepts, patterns, and issues that affect the organization of societies, shape individual thought, or shape social mores.

This course will expose students to two patterns with the goal of comparing them: the patterns of how crime is portrayed in the media, and the actual patterns of crime and law enforcement as they exist in society. Further, the effects of both media portrayals of crime and actual criminal patterns on the mindset of ordinary citizens will be examined.

Objective c: Identify an institutional or societal structure (or structures) and its (or their) influence on individuals.

This course is examining the institution of the media and its influences on individuals' perceptions and fear of crime. Specifically, it will expose students to the people and organizations that manipulate our perceptions of crime and profit from our anxieties.

Objective e: Recognize the influence of societal or cultural context on self and others as individuals.

This course will explore the culture of fear and how it has influenced individual behavior and American culture.

This course was approved by:

(Liberal learning core courses must be reviewed by BOTH academic Deans.)

Concur Do Not

Concur**

Department(s): (1) _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

(2) _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

Liberal Learning Council: _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

CLAS Curriculum
Committee: _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

LSoB Curriculum
Committee: _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

Dean: _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

Dean: _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

Undergraduate Curriculum
Committee: _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

Changes to the Liberal Learning requirements must be reviewed by the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate President: _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

Provost _____ Date: _____ ☐ ☐

Distribution by Provost Office following approval:
Department Chair(s), UCC Chair, Deans, Registrar

***** If "Do Not Concur" is checked, please attach a statement of explanation.***

FACULTY COUNCIL ON LIBERAL LEARNING: AREA OF INQUIRY COURSE APPROVAL FORM

PART A:

Course Number and Title: SOCL 215 Media and Crime

Department: Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

Date of Faculty Council Vote:

PART B:

Area of Inquiry: Check One

- ☐ Western Traditions
- ☐ Global and Multicultural Perspectives
- ☐ Formal and Informal Reasoning
- ☐ Investigating the Natural World
- ☐ Creative Expressions
- ☒ Identity, Institutions and Societies

PART C:

If course is Not Approved, additional comments may be added on the reverse side. Proposal is then to be returned to the Department that submitted it.

PART D:

Organization	Signature	Date	Approve	Do Not Approve*
Liberal Learning Council				
CLAS Curr. Comm				
SofB Curr. Comm				
CLAS Dean				
SofB Dean				
UCC Chair				
Faculty Senate Pres.				

*If “Do Not Approve”, please explain why.