This course provides a survey of social science theories of criminal behavior at the individual and group levels. Theories of Crime provides an advanced survey of social science theories of criminal behavior at the individual and group levels. The course begins with an examination of the empirical study of crime, with an emphasis on crime data and its sources. The course progresses through biosocial, psychological, and sociological theories. The overarching emphasis of the course is to understand explanations of criminal behavior at the individual level and variations in crime rates at the group level.

CJPA 803: Applied Research Methods

3 Credits

This course provides a survey of social research methods tailored to the field of criminal justice. This course provides a survey of social science research methods, applied to the study of criminal justice topics and the evaluation of criminal justice policies. The course discusses different sources of crime and justice data, survey research methods, experimental and quasi-experimental approaches, qualitative research approaches, and legal research. The course emphasizes the illustration of types of research methods with examples from criminal justice research and policy evaluation.

CJPA 808: Capstone Project in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration

3 Credits

This course is a requirement for all students in the M.P.S. in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration. During their final semester, the student will work closely with a faculty adviser (selected to match the student on substantive and/or methodological expertise) on a self-selected criminal justice and policy administration-related capstone project. The student is expected to draw on data and methods encountered during their prior course work. At the end of the semester, the student will be required to make a formal peer presentation to other enrolled students and all their faculty advisers. The student also will be required to submit a final report/paper to their faculty adviser by the end of the semester.

Prerequisite: CJPA 501, CJPA 502, CJPA 803, CJPA 820, CJPA 865, CRIMJ 503
Criminal Justice Policy and Administration (CJPA)

course will conclude with a discussion of the future of global policing to identify forthcoming issues and possibilities in global policing.

CJPA 831: Transnational Crime

3 Credits

This course is about transnational crime activities happening around the world. Crime and criminal activities have become transnational due to globalization and advances in technology. The course will start with analyzing the universe of transnational crime to understand the current trends in transnational crime activities and the role of organized crime groups in these criminal activities. Students will study different types of transnational crimes every week to explore current issues related to crimes occurring beyond national borders. Transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, arms trafficking, counterfeiting, cybercrime, environmental crime, and money laundering will be analyzed to understand how transnational criminals commit these crimes, what types of strategies and tactics they use, and how law enforcement agencies try to fight against these crimes at the local, national, and international levels. Global responses and the U.S. response against transnational crimes will also be studied to evaluate the role of international organizations as well as the U.S. in the fight against transnational crime.

CJPA 832: Policing Terrorism

3 Credits

This course aims to understand the role of law enforcement in counterterrorism by analyzing the challenges, issues, and difficulties in policing terrorism. Root causes, strategies, and tactics of modern terrorist organizations are studied to understand the underlying motivations and the modus operandi of terrorist organizations. Law enforcement responses and contemporary policing strategies to fight terrorism are studied to evaluate their effectiveness in counterterrorism. Policing efforts to fight against domestic and international terrorist activities are also discussed to understand the new issues and challenges in policing global terrorism.

CJPA 833: Courts and Sentencing

3 Credits

This course is an examination of theory, research, and policy involving courts and their sentencing decisions. The course aims to translate social science research and theory on courts and sentencing into useful perspectives and knowledge for criminal justice practitioners and policy analysts. The course discusses sentencing decisions and how they are shaped by law and policy, the social organization of local courts, and the decision-making discretion of judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. In addition, the course considers the pros and cons of various research strategies for evaluating sentencing policies in an evidence-based way.

CJPA 865: Criminal Justice Ethics in a Diverse Society

3 Credits

This course provides a survey of ethical systems and theories. Section 1 provides an overview of the study of ethics, with definitions and a discussion of the parameters of ethical analysis. Section 2 presents the major ethical systems (utilitarianism, ethical formalism, religion, ethics of care, virtue ethics). Section 3 examines the origins of the concept of justice, distributive justice, corrective justice, substantive justice, procedural justice, immoral laws and the moral person, and restorative justice. Section 4 explains the theories of moral development, biological factors, learning theory, Kohlberg's moral stage theory, teaching ethics, and avoiding cynicism and burnout. Section 5 discusses the role of police in society as a crime fighter or public servant, police power and discretion, and the police subculture. Section 6 examines police discretion and discrimination, discretion in criminal investigations, and discretion and the use of force. Section 7 examines police misconduct and corruption as a worldwide problem, including international measures of corruption, on-duty use of drugs and alcohol, sexual misconduct, and criminal behavior by police. Section 8 examines the role of law, the law and legal behavior, justifications for law, and the various paradigms of law. Section 9 presents issues of discretion and dilemmas for the defense and the prosecution. Section 10 discusses ethical misconduct in the courts and the explanations and methods of response to the misconduct. Section 11 describes the issues involving discretion of correctional officers, treatment staff, and probation and parole officers.