CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
University Senate

Resolution to Recommend Criminology and Justice Studies Minor
011-23/24-ICC December 12, 2023 - Curriculum Reading

RESOLVED: That the University Senate of Cal Poly Humboldt recommends to the Provost that the Criminology and Justice Studies Minor detailed in proposal 22-2124 be approved.

RATIONALE: Students minoring in Criminology and Justice Studies at Cal Poly Humboldt find an active and supportive department culture with a dynamic curriculum intentionally focused on analyzing systems of power from a justice studies perspective. Critical criminology challenges traditional understandings of harm and seeks to unearth the social and historical processes that constitute 'crime'. Coursework addresses law, policy, social justice and how systems of oppression are produced and reproduced by the criminal punishment system. Courses are primarily taught through a sociological perspective, which allows students to develop critical thinking about systems-structures and research skills.

The primary rationale for offering a Criminology and Justice Studies minor is to meet student demand. The minor will allow students to gain a specialized knowledge of issues pertaining to the criminal punishment system, the social construction of crime and criminality, and alternative visions of social justice, in addition to providing these students with formal recognition of the specialized knowledge gained via this coursework.

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The minor will support all of Cal Poly Humboldt's Institutional Learning outcomes, most notably those of critical thinking and equity and social justice. Via its embrace of critical criminology, the minor invites students to question taken-for-granted assumptions about criminality, punishment, and justice. It analyzes racial, ethnic, and socio-economic disparities in the criminal "justice" system, encouraging students to envision alternative approaches to justice.

Criminology and Justice Studies Minor Program Learning Outcomes:
1. Effectively communicate orally about social science theory and methods (oral communication)
2. Effectively communicate in writing about social science theory and methods (information literacy)
3. Think theoretically about crime, justice, and the process and significance of criminalization (social justice)

4. Explain the historical evolution of law in relation to social, economic, and political forces (critical thinking - theory)
5. Evaluate research designs and analytic techniques (critical thinking – methods)

Criminology and Justice Studies Minor Curriculum (18-19 units):

- CRIM 125 - Introduction to Criminology and Justice Studies **Units: 3**
- CRIM 225 - Inequalities / Criminalization **Units: 4**
    OR
    CRIM 225S - Inequalities / Criminalization (Service Learning) **Units: 4**

Upper Division Elective Courses
Complete 12 units of upper division criminology and justice studies coursework from the list below. No more than one sociology course (with a SOC prefix) and no more than one cannabis studies course (with a CANN prefix) may be counted toward the minor. To best meet student interests, minor electives should be selected in consultation with a CJS faculty advisor.

Complete three of the following courses:
CRIM 325W - Law and Society **Units: 4**
CRIM 362 - Genders, Sexualities and Crime **Units: 4**
CRIM 410 - Theories of Crime and Justice **Units: 4**
CRIM 420 - Drugs and Society **Units: 4**
CRIM 430 - Law and Dissent **Units: 4**
CRIM 431 - Juvenile Delinquency **Units: 4**
CRIM 433 - Punishment and Justice in Cross-National Perspective **Units: 4**
CRIM 455 - Policing Bodies: A Biopolitical History of Race, Riots and Surveillance **Units: 4**
SOC 330 - Social Deviance **Units: 4**
SOC 363 - Environmental Crime **Units: 4**
SOC 480 - Special Topics (requires advisor approval) **Units: 4**
CANN 325 - Cannabis and Social Equity **Units: 3**
CANN 420 - Cannabis Law and Policy **Units: 3**