**Spring 2022 Courses of Interest for Pre-Law Students**

**MJD 213: Media Law & Ethics in the Digital Age** MW 8:00AM (Staff)

\*Cannot be taken by first-year students

This course explores the political, historic and philosophical roots of the First Amendment. Particular emphasis is given to the legal and ethical problems of the new communications technologies; other topics include libel, privacy, obscenity, newsgathering, copyright, and the free press/fair trial dilemma. The class also provides insights into how the legal process works and an understanding of the principles and philosophies that underlie the restraints on and privileges of the media. After analyzing what the law says journalists can do, the course moves into the ethical component of what they should do. Using basic philosophical theories, students analyze ethical dilemmas through the use of case studies. Using multimedia, guest speakers and current events the course considers media law and ethics and its impact of journalists' ability to fulfill the historic function of the press to inform the public.

**PO 334: U.S. Constitutional Law: Rights & Liberties** TTH 1:45PM (Simmons)

\*\*Fulfills History & Society requirement

The second of two courses on U.S. Constitutional Law, this course examines the constitutional relationship between the individual and the government.  Specific topics include the First Amendment freedoms of speech, press and religious belief, as well as Fourteenth Amendment theories of equal protection of the law, especially as it relates to racial and gender equality.  Students should strive to take this course as well as PO 332 for a complete study of U.S. Constitutional Law, but they do not need to be taken in order.

**PO 336: Law and Social Change** MW 3:15PM (Simmons)

\*New Course!

\*\*Fulfills Engaging Diverse Identities requirement

An examination of how U.S. law hinders or promotes social change. Discussions will examine the context for the legal cases, the work and reactions of social movements and grassroots organizations to legal decisions, and the impact of legal decisions on societal change. Topics include race, sex/sexuality/gender, labor/class, and disability.

**PO 338: Criminal Justice** TTH 3:30PM (Simmons)

An analysis of the various agencies involved with the administration of criminal justice. Topics include the definition and measurement of criminal behavior, pre-trial procedure, the adversary trial process, the imposition of punishment, and the judicial supervision of the rights of the accused. Emphasis is always on moral and constitutional values and institutional performance.

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**PS 256: Abnormal Psychology** MWF 12:15PM (Hastings)

\*Requires PS or SO 101 to have been taken prior.

This course explores historical and contemporary ways of conceptualizing the origins, characteristics, and treatments of psychological/emotional difficulties and problems in living. Problems and disorders to be examined range from minor adjustment problems and common disorders such as depression to more rare, major mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. Through an in-depth examination of a variety of viewpoints on "abnormal" behavior, students are invited to think critically about their own and our society's conception of "mental illness."

**PS 310: Drugs and Behavior** TTH 10:15AM (Krishenbaum)

\*Requires PS 215 or similar methods course, and restricted to PS/NS/CR majors and CR minors prior to open enrollment period.

This course covers the basics of how drugs interact with the brain to alter behavior. The action of recreational drugs and therapeutic drugs are described. The fundamentals of pharmacology and neuroscience are reviewed; therefore, it is recommended that students complete PS 274 (Behavioral Neuroscience) before enrolling in PS 310.

**PS 320: Forensic Psychology** TTH 12:00PM (Boynton)

\*Requires PS 213 or similar stats course, and restricted to PS/CR majors/minors prior to open enrollment period.

This course examines psychological research, methods, theory, and practice as they apply to legal system processes. Experimental (e.g., jury selection) and clinical (e.g., assessment of insanity) applications receive equal weight. Consideration is also given to the proper place of social science in legal and public policy issues.

**RS 328: Christian Healthcare Ethics** TTH 1:45PM (Mahoney)

\*Requires a 100-level RS course to have previously been completed.

\*\*Fulfills Catholic Intellectual Traditions requirement

Considers selected topics in the field of contemporary ethical issues in health care. This course will focus on selected major areas of concern such as genetics, abortion, euthanasia, human experimentation, and HIV/AIDS. The course will explore those issues using approaches from the Christian tradition.

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**SO 107: Social Problems** TTH 12:00PM (Islam)

\*\*Fulfills Engaging Diverse Identities and History & Society requirements

This course is focused on contemporary social problems, particularly on how issues come to be "public" issues and eventually defined as problems in need of resolution. Often taught from the "constructionist" perspective, the problems that receive the greatest attention range from year to year and professor to professor. Common problems include, poverty, stratification, prejudice and discrimination, drug and alcohol abuse, gangs, violence, hunger, economic development and many other topics. As with Introduction to Sociology, this course focuses on the basic institutions of society.

**SO 218: Deviance, Norms, and Social Control** MW 1:30PM (Islam)

\*Restricted to SO/AN/CR majors/minors or instructor permission.

We live in a social world that is full of rules that govern our everyday actions, from formal laws about which side of the road we should drive on to unspoken rules about how and when to blow your nose. Sociologists call these rules "social norms" and the efforts to "police" those who deviate from them (deviants), we call "social control." Most of us follow the rules most of the time but all of us break the rules from time to time. In this course we will ask questions like: What is the purpose of social norms? What causes "deviance"? Why are some deviant acts considered "criminal" while others are considered "heroic"? What are some of the best (and worst) ways to reduce crime and violence? Along the way we will take a critical look at the U.S. criminal justice system and some of its most egregious crimes against poor, non-white, young males.

**SO 221: Race and Ethnic Relations** TTH 10:15AM (Islam)

\*\*Fulfills Engaging Diverse Identities requirement

This course explores the interethnic and "racial" dynamics in society and how they came to be characterized in the manner that they are. As a Sociology course, particular emphasis will be placed on the institutional and cultural dimensions.

**SO 318: Restorative Justice** W 5:30PM (Miodownik)

\*Restricted to SO/AN/CR majors/minors or instructor permission.

The U.S. criminal justice system asks: What laws have been broken? Who did it? What punishment do they deserve? Restorative Justice asks: Who has been hurt? What are their needs? Whose obligations are these? Directly explore and experience various restorative approaches to harm in this highly interactive course.