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TSC Action Plan

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CRIM 420 Media Portrayal of Crime

3 credits

0 lab hours

Prerequisites: CRIM 101 or IDPL 105 or COMM 101 or departmental approval

3 credits

(3c-01-3cr)

Provides an examination of the portrayal of crime in the media (television, film, newspapers, music, video games, electronic/internet). This includes but is not limited to: victims, offenders, criminal justice actors, and the criminal justice system. Of importance is how the media select what is newsworthy and how it describes and/or alters criminal justice issues. Attention will be paid to the media's influence on perceptions of crime, the ethics behind the media's perceptual influence, criminology and criminal justice issues of the general population and the resultant criminal justice policies. The course is seminar based.

II Course Objectives

Objective 4: Analyze media content for themes related to criminology and criminal justice.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes 1 and 2:

Informed and Empowered Learners

Rationale:

A paper and presentation assignment will require students to have knowledge about criminology/criminal justice system and be able to critically analyze the content present in the media. Assignments also will require students to make the link between the content present in the media and how it may influence public perceptions. This allows the student to evaluate the information provided by the media and its accuracy.

III. Detailed Course Outline

A. Media (2 hours)

1. Forms of media
2. Who owns the media?
3. Ethical use of information

B. Pervasiveness of Crime in Everyday Media (3 hours)

1. How much media is encountered?

2. Prominence of crime coverage versus other breaking news

IV. Evaluation Methods

The faculty person assigned to teach this course could be one of several faculty members within the

Department of Criminology or Journalism. What follows is an example of the evaluation methods and weighting used for this course:

Your final grade in this class will be a compilation of the following:

- A. Midterm and Final Exams
- B. Research Paper and Presentation
- C. Class Participation

Exams: There will be a midterm and final. The exams will be either a take home exam or in class exams and will be rigorously graded. Exams will be essay format. Exams will be graded according to content, appropriateness of conclusions, citations, spelling, grammar, and flow. Exams will make up 40% of grade.

Research Paper and Presentation: Students will be assigned to groups to conduct research on media and crime. For this assignment, each group will be conducting a content analysis of the media focusing on one of the following (this list is not exhaustive): criminal activity, portrayal of offenders, portrayal of victims, portrayal of criminal justice employees, portrayal of criminal laws or

VI. Attendance Policy

The undergraduate course attendance policy will be consistent with the university undergraduate attendance policy included in the Undergraduate Catalog.

VII. Required Textbook

Robinson, M. (2011) *Media Coverage of Crime and Criminal Justice*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Required Articles

Beale, S. (2006) The News Media's Influence on Criminal Justice Policy: How market-driven news

promotes punitiveness. *William and Mary Law Review* 48 (2): 397-481.

Collins, M. (2009) Ripped from the Headlines: The use of real crime in *Law & Order* episodes. *The Journal of the Institute of Justice & International Studies* 9: 88-97.

Frost, N. & Phillips, N. (2011) Talking Heads: Crime reporting on cable news. *Justice Quarterly* 28 (1): 87-112.

Phillips, N. (2007) Crime reporting on cable news: A case study of the Fox network's *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*.

Hirschfield, P. & Simon, D. (2010) Legitimizing Police Violence: Newspaper narratives of deadly force. *Theoretical Criminology* 14 (2): 155-182.

Klein, R. & Naccarato, S. (2003) Broadcast News Portrayal of Minorities: Accuracy in reporting. *American Behavioral Scientist* 46 (12): 1611-1616.

Kraska, P. & Neuman, W.L. (2011) Chapter 9 "Nonreactive Research: Content analysis and existing documents/statistics." In *Essential Criminal Justice and Criminology Research Methods*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Lawrence, J. & Joyner, D. (1991) The Effects of Sexually Violent Rock Music on Males' Acceptance of Violence Against Women. *Psychology of Women Quarterly* 15: 49-63.

Lowry, D., Nio, T., & Leitner, D. (2003) Setting the Public Fear Agenda: A longitudinal analysis of network TV crime reporting, public perceptions of crime, and FBI crime statistics. *Journal of*

Communication 53 (1) 61-73.

Tunnell, K. (1992) 99 Years is Almost for Life: Punishment for violent crime in bluegrass music

Unsworth, G., Devilly, G., & Ward, T. (2007) The Effect of Playing Violent Video Games on Adolescents: Should parents be quaking in their boots? *Psychology, Crime & Law* 13 (4): 383-394.

Welch, M., Fenwick, M., & Roberts, M. (1997) Primary Definitions of Crime and Moral Panic: A

Course Analysis Questionnaire

Section A: Details of the Course

A1: This course will be part of the group C controlled electives for Criminology or Criminology Pre-law majors or can be taken as a free elective for Criminology, Criminology Pre-law majors, Journalism majors, or Communication Media majors. This course also could be a liberal studies elective eligible for all students. The content of this course is too broad to be included in another course.

A2: This course will not require changes in the content of existing courses. Once approved, this

course would fit in the group C controlled electives for Criminology or Criminology Pre-law majors.

A3: This course has not been offered as a special topics course.

A4: This course will not be a dual-level course.

A5: This course cannot be taken for variable credit.

A6: Yes other higher education institutions offer this course

B2: The content of this course does not overlap with any other courses at the University. Journalism was approached about cross-listing the course so that both Journalism and Criminology/Criminology Pre-law majors could take the course.

B3: As stated above the course will be cross-listed with Journalism and Criminology/Criminology Pre-law majors.

offered in the fall by one department and in the spring by the other department. Summer and winter scheduling will be as desired by each department

Section C: Implementation

C1: Faculty resources are adequate. Current CRIM, COMM, and JRNL faculty can teach the class. No other courses will be taught less frequently or in fewer sections.

C2: No additional resources will be required

C3: There are no grant funded resources involved with the teaching of this course

Checklist for Liberal Studies Electives Course Proposals

_____ competencies are to be handled.

2. Follow the 2012 Undergraduate Curriculum Handbook for new (p. 20-27) or revised courses (p. 15-19).

3. Meet the minimum requirements for Liberal Studies Electives as defined in the 2012 Undergraduate Curriculum Handbook (p. 15-19).

Liberal Studies Course Approval Checklist Instruction Sheet

Use this checklist for all Liberal Studies categories other than writing-intensive sections: a

Liberal Studies Course Approval General Information

1. An annual review (at the end of the spring semester) between departmental faculty teaching CRIM 420 and JRNL 420 of the course objectives and outcomes will be held. In addition, the validity of objectives will be assessed to determine whether the course goals are being met by the Department of Criminology and Journalism Department.

2. The syllabus of record includes 6 hours of the course devoted to race/ethnicity gender and

social class. This also will be a constant theme present throughout the course.

3. The syllabus of record includes as required reading a collection of related articles. In addition, articles from the bibliography may be assigned as needed.

4. This is not an introductory course. Students will be expected to have some background

Subject: CRIM/JRNL 420 Media Portrayal of Crime

From: "David H. Pistole" <dpistole@iup.edu>

Date: 4/12/2013 2:12 PM

To: "Frenzel, Erika " <e.frenzel@iup.edu>

CC: "Weaver, Debra L" <Debra.Weaver@iup.edu>, "Swinker, Mary E" <Mary.Swinker@iup.edu>,

"Slack, Frederick J" <Frederick.Slack@iup.edu>, Sharon C Aikins <saikins@iup.edu>, Robert W

Sweeny <bob.sweeny@iup.edu>, Megan E Knoch <megan.knoch@iup.edu>, Megan Alice

Florez, m.a florez@iup.edu, Bryna Siegel Finer <bryna.siegelfiner@iup.edu>, "Hwang, Eun

Subject: LS Committee review of CRIM/JRNL 470

From: "John A Lewis" <mfyj@iup.edu>

Date: 5/8/2013 6:24 PM

To: <dpistole@iup.edu>

CC: <e.frenzel@iup.edu>, <rmartin@iup.edu>

David,

Hope all is going well as you prepare for surgery.

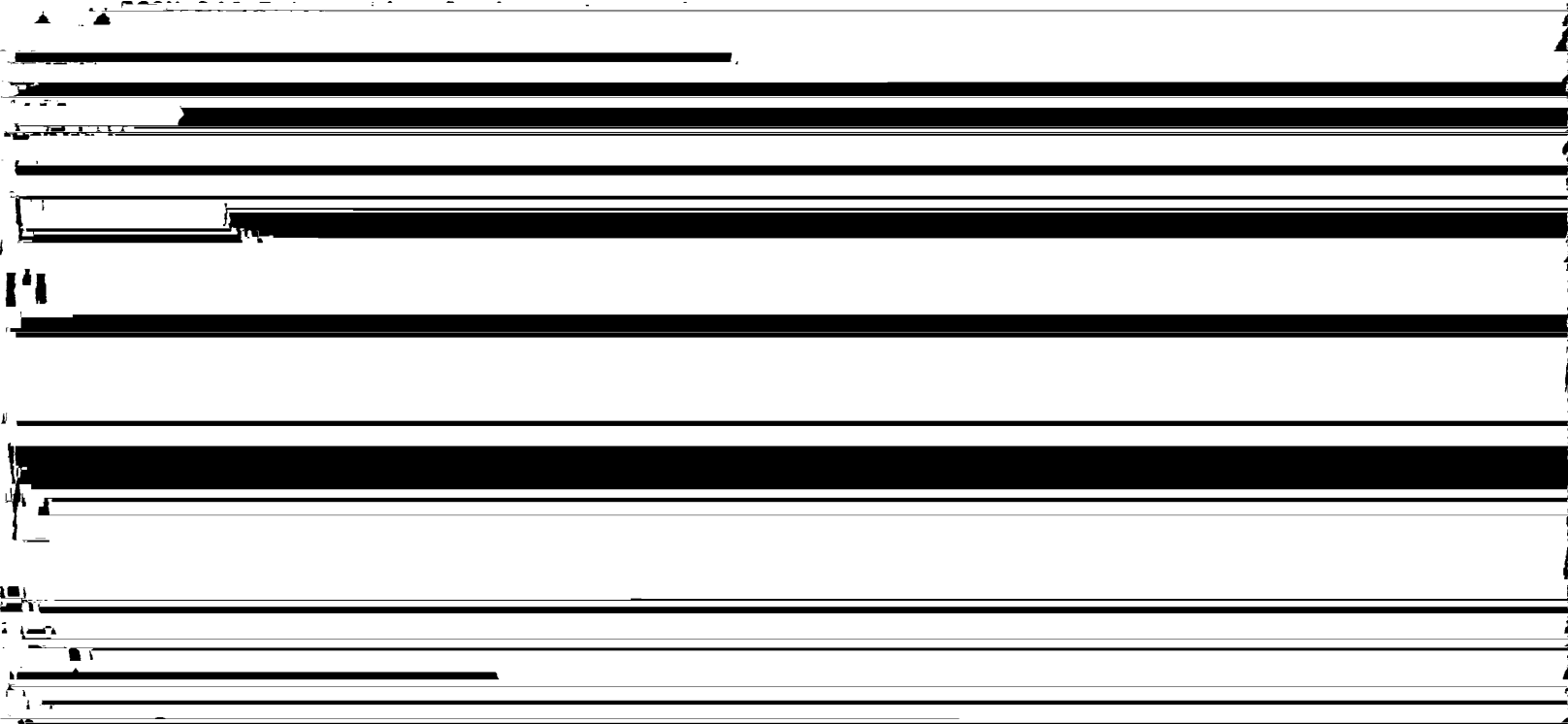
As part of the department's UGCC I am helping Dr. Frenzel address the issues identified by the LS Committee for CRIM 420/JRNL 420.

I would like a little clarification to assist us in meeting the committee's intent.

The main issue for the committee is that this seems like a major's

electives are not typically controlled major electives"

permission



permission

David,

We are not sure what the committee wants unless it is greater clarification, as what we are being informed would prevent approval of CRIM/JRNL 420 does not seem to have stopped the approval of these other LSE and Multi Cultural Awareness courses.

Thanks,

John