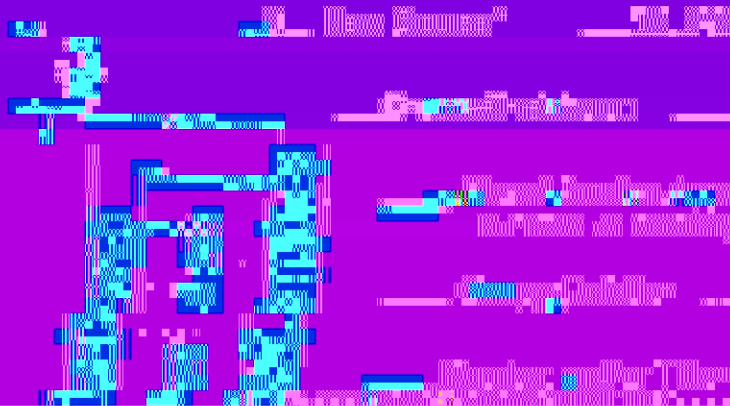


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Program Revision*

Program Name

Program Deletion*

Signatures and date)

Signatures (S)

College Curriculum Committee

College Dean

Director

Part II Description of Curricular Change

Include any additional information valuable to those reviewing this new course proposal.

There are no other inclusions

1. **Statement of Need**

2. **Catalog Description**

ECON 223 Economics of Crime

3 lecture hours
0 lab hours
3 credits
(3c-31-3sh)

Prerequisites: None

Economic analysis of criminal activity and its impact on the allocation of scarce resources. The course will use fundamental economic models to explain crimes against

2. An overview of economics as a social science and how these models can be used to understand crime: An explanation of fundamental concepts of

economics and their potential relevance.

- i) Resource constraints and aspiration levels
- ii) Opportunity costs
- iii) Diminishing marginal utility of a good of income
- iv) Rational choice and marginal valuation
- v) Graphic representation
- vi) Changes in demand and supply
- vii) Elasticity of supply and demand
- viii) Distinctions between substitute and complementary goods
- ix) Market imperfections

- B. The economic impact of criminal activity on the society **7 lecture hours and ½ hr. quizzes – ½ hr. presentations**

~~The cost of crimes against property to society~~

2. The cost of crimes against persons to society
3. The cost of victimless crime to society
4. Quantification problems and their implications as a guide to crime prevention policy

- iii) The historical origin and economic significance of the Prison-Industrial Complex
- iv) The optimum use of prevention resources
- v) The rational and optimum amount of incarceration
- vi) Cost benefit analysis of prevention programs

E. The economics of crimes against property **1 hour and ¼ hr. quizzes – ¾ hr. presentations**

- 1. The impact on market prices and quantity
- 2. The demand and supply of stolen goods and services

3. White collar crime

4. Empirical studies of crime against property

F. The economics of crimes against persons **1 hour and ¼ hr. quizzes**

1. The demand and supply of rational murder and irrational murder

V. Required Textbooks, Supplementary Books, and Readings

Alper, N. O. and Hellman D. A. 1997. Theory and Practice - Economics of Crime, 4th ed., Simon & Schuster Publishing, Needham Heights.

Alper, N. O. and Hellman, D. A. 1997. Economics of Crime B Reader, Simon & Schuster Publishing, Needham Heights.

VI. Special Course Requirements.

None.

Current journal articles and extensive lecture notes are placed on reserve in the library and may be accessed on the course web site.

VII. Bibliography

Becker, G. 1976. The Economic Approach to Human Behavior. *Journal of Political Economy*, 84, 5-48.

Course Analysis Questionnaire

Section A: Details of the Course

- A1** What academic need does this course fulfill? How does this course fit into the programs of the department? For what clientele is the course designed? Majors? Students in other majors? Liberal Studies? State specifically whether or not the course is proposed for inclusion in the Liberal Studies course list.

The Economics of Crime is designed to provide an application of economics to an

important and popular subject. It is intended that this course will expose students to introductory economic concepts and how these concepts can be used to understand the economic issues of this course.

The course would be an upper level elective for both economics majors and for non-majors.

Since there is no economics prerequisite proposed for this course, it could be taken by sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have had no economics. All students taking the course can benefit from exposure to an application of the economic way of thinking to

decisions that affect the resources used by criminal activity and the effort to reduce this activity.

I have not assessed this course for inclusion into the Liberal Studies List.

Each student is required to make a fifteen to twenty minute oral presentation to the class on an issue that has been approved and discussed with the instructor.

A4 Has this course ever been offered at IUP on a trial basis (e.g. as a special topic)? If so, explain the details of the offering.

Yes. This course has been offered on a trial basis as a special topics course. Each time this course was offered, maximum enrollment was reached early in the

A5 Is this course to be a dual-level course? If so, what is the approval status at the graduate level?

This course is not intended to be a dual level course.

A6 If this course may be taken for variable credit, what criteria will be used to

B2 Are additional or corollary courses needed with this course now or later? If so, explain.

No. Additional or corollary courses will not be needed with this course now or later.

B3 What is the relationship between the content of this course and the content of courses offered by other departments? (Summarize your discussions (with other departments) concerning the proposed changes and indicate how any conflicts have been resolved. In Section V, please attach relevant memoranda from these

departments, which clarify their attitudes toward the proposed change(s).

This course is a freestanding course with no prerequisites. This course will complement courses offered in the Department of Criminology.

B4 Will seats in this course be made available to students in the School of Continuing Education?

No.

Section C: Implementation

C1 What resources will be needed to teach this course and how adequate are the current resources?

No additional resources will be needed. The necessary resources for this course are currently available within the Department of Economics.

C2 Are any of the resources funded by a grant?

C6 Does any professional society recommend enrollment limits or parameters for a course of this nature? If they do, please quote from the appropriate documents.

No. There are no limitations imposed by a professional society.

C7 Will this course be a curriculum requirement? If so, how will it affect the number of free electives available to majors? Does the addition of this course requirement necessitate an increase in the 124-credit program of students in the department? Explain.

No. This course will be a freestanding elective open to economics majors and

students from other disciplines.