

PLS—Police Studies
Dr. Carole Garrison, Chair

PLS 103 Foundations of Policing. (3) I, II.

Overview of police functions and responsibilities at the local, state, and federal levels. Police operations are examined relative to effectiveness in crime control, delivery of services, and maintenance of order.

PLS 216 Criminal Law. (3) I, II.

The nature of the criminal act; the essential elements; theories of responsibility; exculpatory matters; overview of common law offenses; identification of trends in the law.

PLS 220 Criminal Investigation. (3) A.

Fundamental of criminal investigation, crime scene search and recording, collection and preservation of physical evidence, scientific aids, modus operandi, sources of information, interviews and interrogation, follow-up, case preparation and case management.

PLS 315 Police Administration and Management. (3) I, II.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Critically examines the theories of motivation, leadership, and organization in the police context. Police administrative and management functions studied emphasizing personnel management and organizational change.

PLS 316 Criminal Evidence. (3) I, II.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Overview of trial procedures; classification of evidence; proof; presumptions; relevance; eyewitness identification; testimonial privileges; character; hearsay; impeachment; scientific evidence; collection and preservation of evidence.

PLS 320 Workshop in Law Enforcement. (1-3) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Designed primarily for in-service law enforcement personnel; focuses on current problems, issues, and strategies in law enforcement. May be retaken to a maximum of six hours.

PLS 326 Police, Liability, and Ethics. (3) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Police conduct is examined relative to ethical and legal principles. Application of federal and state civil, criminal, and administrative law including civil rights issues. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for CRJ 313 or WGS 313.

PLS 330 Topics in Police Studies. (1-6) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Examination of a contemporary issue in policing including historical perspective, societal issues, present status, and future development. The police response to a specific problem is the core of this course. Course may be taken for a maximum of six hours under different headings.

PLS 331 Perspectives on Crime and Delinquency. (3) A.

Prerequisites: CRJ 101, sophomore standing, or departmental approval. Overview of crime and its control. Examines law making, law breaking, and the social response from theoretical perspectives including social, economic, cultural, symbolic, psychological and biological. Includes historical and contemporary developments. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for CRJ 331.

PLS 349 Applied Learning in Police Administration. (1-8) A.

Prerequisites: departmental approval, sophomore standing. Work under faculty and field supervisors, in placements related to academic studies. One to eight hours credit per semester or summer. Total hours: eight, associate; fifteen, baccalaureate. Minimum 80 hours work required for each academic credit. A maximum of three hours of PLS 349 and 424 can be applied toward the PLS major or minor.

PLS 349 A-N Cooperative Study: Police Administration. (1-8) A.

Prerequisites: departmental approval, sophomore standing. Work under faculty and field supervisors, in placements related to academic studies. One to eight hours credit per semester or summer. Total hours: eight, associate; fifteen, baccalaureate. Minimum 80 hours work required for each academic credit. A maximum of three hours of PLS 349 and 424 can be applied toward the PLS major or minor.

PLS 375 Terrorism/Counterterrorism. (3) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. A study of domestic, foreign, and transactional terrorism, with emphasis on the philosophical bases, organization, equipment, and operations of terrorist groups. Role of law enforcement agencies in implementation of anti-terrorist measures is examined. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for APS 375.

PLS 380 Police in the Popular Media. (3) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. A study of the public's perception of police through popular media (music, radio, television, films, short stories and books) and how those media sources might influence policing itself.

PLS 385 Police Related Violence. (3) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. A descriptive, theoretical and philosophical approach to violence used by the police and violence directed toward them. Psychological and sub-cultural impacts will be examined. Additional analysis associated with lethal and non-lethal violence policy and strategies are included.

PLS 388 Criminal Justice Research. (3) A.

Prerequisites: CRJ 101 or COR 201, sophomore standing, or department approval. Overview of the research process, with emphasis on finding, using, and evaluating criminal justice research. Examination of both quantitative and qualitative social science research methods and procedures appropriate to the study of crime policy and criminal justice. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for COR 388 or CRJ 388.

PLS 390 Predatory Crime and Crime Patterns. (3) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Examination of selected crime categories including predatory street, conventional property, and sex crimes. Areas of concentration include theoretical and ecological characteristics, victim-offender relationships, and crime patterns emphasizing police responses.

PLS 400 Applied Criminal Justice Analysis. (3) A.

Prerequisites: PLS 388 or equivalent, sophomore standing. Analytical and statistical concepts and procedures relevant to crime and criminal justice data. Includes quantitative and qualitative techniques, univariate and bivariate statistics. Credit will not be awarded to students who have credit for COR 400 and CRJ 400.

PLS 403 Homicide. (3) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Explore current theoretical, philosophical and empirical literature associated with homicide. Content includes descriptive, theoretical, empirical, and practical explanations of criminal homicide patterns. Included will be an examination of death investigation systems and police responses.

PLS 408 Policing and Technology. (3) I, II.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Overview overview of crime with a focus on understanding the empirical realities, legal issues, civil liberty issues, criminal justice system responses, and social and political impacts of cyber crime.

PLS 410 Human Relations in Policing. (3) A.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Theoretical and practical problems and issues in the relationship between police agencies and the total community. Various police-community relations programs are outlined.

PLS 415 Contemporary Police Strategies. (3) A.

Prerequisite: senior standing. Review of contemporary police issues, programs, and strategies. Detailed analysis and evaluation of police practices, including impact on the relationship between the police and the community. Assessment of police reform measures and accountability mechanism.

PLS 416 Criminal Procedure. (3) A.

Prerequisite: PLS 216, sophomore standing, or instructor approval. A detailed study of the laws of arrest (including the use of force), search and seizure, emphasizing the constitutional basis, historical development, statutes, and recent court decisions.

PLS 424 Field Experience. (3) A.

Prerequisites: instructor and departmental approval. Designed to broaden the educational experience through appropriate observational work assignments. (Intended for pre-service students in non-sworn positions). A maximum of three hours of PLS 424 and PLS 349 can be applied toward the PLS major or minor. May be retaken 1 time for a maximum of 6 total credit hours.

PLS 426 Federal Criminal Law. (3) A.

Prerequisites: PLS 216 or CRJ 312; sophomore standing. An examination of the federal criminal law enforcement system with a focus on substantive offenses. In addition to specific crimes, the basis of federal jurisdiction will be studied.

PLS 460 Independent Study. (1-3) A.

Prerequisite: departmental approval; sophomore standing. Individual study and/or research on a problem relating to police studies. May be retaken to a maximum of six hours. Student must have the independent study proposal form approved by faculty supervisor and department chair prior to enrollment.