POLS 4411: Criminal Law

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101 and POLS 3300

An examination of those areas in which the U.S. Constitution affects criminal justice. Emphasis on understanding the role of the Supreme Court of the United States in interpreting provisions of the Constitution that affect criminal justice. An attempt to understand the content of important decisions in this area as well as the reason given by the Court for decisions.

POLS 4412: Urban Politics

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

Emphasis on the changing patterns of local and municipal governments and politics, impact of reapportionment and other problems generated by an urbanized society.

POLS 4415: Civil Liberties

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101 and POLS 3300

An intensive study of the rights of Americans as guaranteed by the Constitution. The changing character of civil liberties problems in the United States will be stressed with attention given to the legal, historical and political context of the cases studied.

POLS 4416: Law and Gender

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

POLS 4416 examines the relationship between law and gender in the United States, from the New Deal Era to the present day. Topics include how gender impacts the legal regulation of employment, education, reproduction, family life, and constitutional rights. Additionally, the course examines how women participate in the legal system as attorneys, judges, and mediators.

POLS 4420: Judicial Process

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101 and POLS 3300

Courts and judges as agents in the political system; focus is on the judicial decision-making process, with attention to psychological and other variables in that process. Relation of judicial process to legislative, administrative and electoral processes emphasized.