GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DIVISION OF LIBERAL ARTS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Index Number: CJUS 490
Course Title: Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice
Professor: Jagan Lingamneni
e-mail: j-lingamneni@govst.edu
Credit Hours: 3.0
Trimester: Fall 2006 - Block 1
Day/Time: Tuesday, 9:30am-12:20pm
Office: E-2550 – Phone: (708) 534-4585

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Integrates the concepts, issues, methodologies, policies and practices in the criminal justice system/subsystems and processes. Provides an opportunity to explore the career alternatives and readiness skills. Culminates in the completion of an independent research project on a topic related to the student’s career focus in Criminal Justice.

PREREQUISITES:

RESTRICTIONS:
Open only to students with 24 hours of upper division credit in criminal justice or final trimester of enrollment prior to graduation.

RATIONALE:
This course shall serve as an integrating academic experience for graduating seniors. As the capstone course in the curricular sequence it is designed to serve as an in-depth exploration of the concepts, critical issues and policies of criminal justice in contemporary society. It will focus on an assessment of the past and present state-of-the-field. It will also provide a future outlook about the definitions; nature and extent of traditional and nontraditional crimes. Law making:
law enforcement; prosecution, courts and the judiciary; corrections; and juvenile justice are also examined. Special attention will be given to the interdependence of each of the component subsystems in the functioning of the system and processes of criminal justice.

**INTENDED AUDIENCE:** Graduating Criminal Justice Seniors.

**EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Illustrate the ability to conduct job-specific Web Searches and research related to three alternate career choices.
2. Distinguish between "good" and "bad" letters of introduction, cover letters, applications, resumes.
3. Articulate the steps necessary to prepare for a Personnel Officer Interview.
4. Evidence an understanding of the critique process following a Personnel Officer Interview.
5. Conduct independent research with 20 to 30 personal interviews/questionnaires for data collection on the career choice topic in the CJ field to demonstrate their analytical skills.
6. Prepare the senior project and future career research to do a synthesis and integration of relevant literature and present their findings in the final paper.

**INSTRUCTIONAL MODALITIES/ACTIVITIES:**

The course will consist of lecture, discussion, analysis of Internet search findings, and a series of writing assignments (cover letters, applications, resume). An independent research project must be completed and a final paper will be required of each student for submission in the Senior Project portfolio.

**TEXT REQUIRED:**


**TOPICAL OUTLINE/COURSE CONTENT:**

- How do I find the position in Criminal Justice that I want?
- If I withhold information, that's not the same as lying, is it?
- Tricks of the Trade: Use of the Internet
- Cover Letters, Application Process, & Resume
- The Interview Process
- Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Dress for Success
- Personnel Officer Interview
- Legal Municipal, County and State Criminal Justice Career Paths
CJUS 490

- Federal Opportunities/Career Paths in Criminal Justice
- Security Policing, Counter-terrorism and CJ Technology
- Future Career Paths & Prospects in Criminal Justice
- Senior Research Project

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated for the on-time completion and thoroughness of each assignment, the quality of the senior research project and the final paper:

- Web Searches, draft cover letters, applications, resume (25 points)
- Mock Personnel Officer Interview and critique from the Personnel Officer (25 points)
- Research Project and Paper (40 points)
- Class Participation (10 points)

GRADING is based on the following point spread:

- A = 90-100 points
- B = 80-89 points
- C = 70-79 points
- D = 60-69 points
- F = 60 points

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who have a disability or special needs and require accommodation in order to have equal access to the classroom, must register with the designated staff member in the Division of Student Development. Please go to Room B1201 or call (708) 534-4090 and ask for the Coordinator of Disability Services. Students will be required to provide documentation of any disability when an accommodation is requested.

ACADEMIC HONESTY/NO PLAGIRISM:

Students are expected to fulfill academic requirements in an ethical and honest manner. This expectation pertains to the following: use and acknowledgement of the ideas and work of others, submission of work to fulfill course requirements, sharing of work with other students, and appropriate behavior during examinations. These ethical considerations are not intended to discourage people from studying together or from engaging in group projects. The university policy on academic honesty appears in the appendix of the Governors State University Catalog.
GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
"Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice"

CJUS 490  
Tuesday, 9:30am-12:20pm  
Fall 2006

Dr. Jagan Lingamneni

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class Meeting Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>M&amp;R (2005) Reading</th>
<th>News Articles, Writing &amp; Internet Search Assignments</th>
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| 1, 2               | Introduction & Course Objectives  
Finding Info About CJ Jobs & Integrity Issues | Foreword, Preface and Chs. 1-4 | Personal Essay (3-5 pages) |
| 3, 4, 5           | Careers and Issues Legal Field  
Careers in Local Law Enforcement  
Careers and Issues in Corrections & Probation  
Careers and Issues in Juvenile Justice | Chs. 5-9  
Chs. 15-26  
Chs. 10-14  
Chs. 27-30 | Job searches on 3  
Career Alternatives on 3  
Career Choices  
Mini Essays 1, 2, 3 |
| 5, 6              | Careers and Issues in Federal Services  
Putting Your Best Foot Forward  
Careers and Issues in Security Policing, Counter Terrorism, CJ Technology, & CJ Research | Chs. 10-14  
Chs. 27-30 | Cover Letter, Resume, Completed Job Application for the first Career Choice |
| 7, 8, 9           | Senior Research Project | | Proposal & Draft Questionnaire For the Senior Project |
| 10                | Mock Personnel Officer Interview 1* | | Personnel Folder |
| 11                | Post-Personnel Officer Interview Critique | HANDOUTS | |
| 12, 13, 14       | The Future of Criminal Justice  
Analysis of Data for Senior Research Project | Chs. 31-33  
Ch. 35 | Completion of Senior Project Research |
| 15                | Senior Seminar Portfolio  
Due by 12/12/06 | None | Senior Seminar Portfolio/Research Project Paper |

*Scheduling change may be necessary contingent on availability of Interviewers*