



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

## Justice and Public Policy (B.A.)

Department Website: <http://www.american.edu/spa/djls/>

### 1. Learning Outcomes

#### A. Skills for both concentrations

1. Critical thinking
2. Mastery of basic social science writing skills
3. Information literacy in social science  
Ability to evaluate research
  - analyze key concepts
  - know elements of good research
  - evaluate relevance and credibility
4. Ability to differentiate scholarly/scientific approach from other approaches to knowledge

## **B. Knowledge**

### **(a)Criminology concentration**

1. Explain historical and contemporary theories of criminology and social control.
2. Know the purposes of punishment (and crime)

### **(b)Criminal justice concentration**

1. Understand roles of institutions in justice system and key decision points.
2. Describe national measures of crime and the patterns and trends reported by these measures.
3. Explain several specific contemporary issues and major policy initiatives as they affect crime and punishment, including such things as community policing, mandatory and other forms of structured sentencing (such as Three Strikes Laws), victim rights, and the emergence of punishment as the central goal of corrections.

2. Assessment Plan

Measure	Targets	Learning Outcomes	Cycle and Reviewers
		<b>A. Skills for both concentrations</b>	
Grading rubric - papers from JLS 402; survey of graduating seniors; Faculty meeting	80% of students at least “Good” on critical thinking items	1. Critical thinking	Survey every 4 years beginning 2009 for all JPP outcomes; results of survey will determine order in which other skills are assessed  Assessment Committee reviews papers every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.
Grading rubric - papers from JLS 402; survey of graduating seniors; Faculty meeting	80% of students at least “Good” on relevant items	2. Mastery of basic social science writing skills	Assessment Committee reviews papers every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.
Review of selected test items from multiple choice test, JLS 280; survey of graduating seniors; Faculty meeting	80% of students correct on 80% relevant items	3. Information literacy in social science	Assessment Committee reviews JLS 280 tests every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.
Review of selected test items from multiple choice test, JLS 280;	80% of students correct on 80% relevant items	4. Ability to evaluate research - analyze key concepts	Assessment Committee reviews JLS 280 tests every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment

survey of graduating seniors; Faculty meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- know elements of good research</li> <li>- evaluate relevance and credibility</li> </ul>	meeting.
Review of selected test items from multiple choice test, JLS 280; survey of graduating seniors; Faculty meeting	80% of students correct on 80% relevant items	5. Ability to differentiate scholarly/scientific approach from other approaches to knowledge	Assessment Committee reviews JLS 280 tests every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.
		<b>B. Knowledge</b>	
JLS 205 multiple choice test; survey of graduating seniors; faculty meeting	80% of students correct on 80% relevant items	<b>(a)Criminology concentration</b> 1. Explain historical and contemporary theories of criminology and social control.	Assessment Committee reviews JLS 205 tests every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.
<b>Review sample test, JLS 205;</b> survey of graduating seniors; faculty meeting	80% of students correct on 80% items	2. Know the purposes of punishment (and crime)	Assessment Committee reviews JLS 205 tests every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.
JLS 104 multiple choice test; survey of graduating seniors; faculty meeting	80% of students correct on 80% relevant items	<b>(b)Criminal justice concentration</b> 1. Understand roles of institutions in justice system and key decision points.	Assessment Committee reviews JLS 104 tests every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.

JLS 104, multiple choice; survey of graduating seniors; faculty meeting	80% of students correct on 80% relevant items	2. Describe national measures of crime and the patterns and trends reported by these measures.	Assessment Committee reviews JLS 104 tests every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.
Review sample of papers in elective classes using rubric; survey of graduating seniors; faculty meeting	80% "Good" on relevant items	3. Explain several specific contemporary issues and major policy initiatives as they affect crime and punishment, including such things as community policing, mandatory and other forms of structured sentencing (such as Three Strikes Laws), victim rights, and the emergence of punishment as the central goal of corrections.	Assessment Committee reviews JLS 280 tests every 4 years, results to faculty at assessment meeting.