

# Bemidji State University

## CRJS 3319: Topics In Criminal Justice

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 1,2

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Designed to present special topics, problems or areas of current interest to the field of Criminal Justice.

### B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 10/22/1997 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduce students to the serious problem of wrongful convictions in Criminal Justice.
2. Focus on several important areas including the causes of wrongful convictions, the social characteristics of the wrongfully convicted, case studies of mistaken convictions, and ways to improve the CJ system to prevent mistakes and more quickly correct such errors once they are discovered.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. consider the causes, consequences and solutions to the problem of false confessions
2. consider the use of informants and the role they play in wrongful convictions
3. consider the police role in avoiding wrongful convictions
4. consider the role of prosecuting attorneys in preventing wrongful convictions
5. consider racial bias and conviction of the innocent
6. consider case studies of the wrongfully convicted
7. consider "effective assistance" of counsel in relationship to wrongful convictions
8. consider the background and scholarship regarding DNA and innocence

### E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

### F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

### G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted