

GRADUATE COUNCIL  
COURSE CHANGE PROPOSAL

**Please submit the typed original with all required signatures to the Graduate Council**  
**Course syllabus must be attached and completed according to Fitchburg State guidelines**

Form functionality most compatible using Adobe Acrobat 9 and newer.

Course Title: CJ 8150 - Advanced Policy Seminar

Existing Banner Abbreviation:

[illegible]

Proposed Banner Abbreviation:

[illegible]

Banner limit of 30 characters, including punctuation, spaces, and special characters.

Faculty member(s) who revised the course:

Marcel Beausoleil, Randall Grometstein, David Weiss, Richard P. Wiebe

Contact Person: Richard P. Wiebe

Graduate Program Proposing Change: **Criminal Justice**

Nature of course revision:

- ☐ Course Level
 ☐ Change in additional requirements  
☐ Course Credits
 ☐ Course Title  
☒ Course Prerequisites
 ☐ Description  
☐ Other (please specify):

Course Revision Details (Please provide current and proposed version of changes):

Currently CJ 8150, our Advanced Policy Seminar, requires 15 credits of CJ graduate coursework as a prerequisite. We would like to eliminate that prerequisite.

**Current course description:**

CJ 8150 - Advanced Policy Seminar 3 cr

This course combines a seminar-style overview of public policy theories and the policy-making process, including research, analysis, recommendation(s), implementation and evaluation, along with a clinical approach of gaining experience working as a research team member.

**Prerequisite(s):** 15 graduate credits in Criminal Justice.

**Proposed course description:**

CJ 8150 - Advanced Policy Seminar 3 cr \*ALL\*

This course combines a seminar-style overview of public policy theories and the policy-making process, including research, analysis, recommendation(s), implementation and evaluation, along with a clinical approach of gaining experience working as a research team member.

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Rationale and expected outcomes for the course change:

This course, CJ 8150, was instituted as part of Criminal Justice's 4+1 MPTC Police Academy program. At the time it was created, students were expected to complete the graduate course portion of the 4+1 program before the summer police academy itself. We had anticipated that this course would be a writing-intensive capstone course for our students about to enter the academy. However, based on our experience, we have since reversed the order of the academy and graduate courses. Since our 4+1 students take the academy as their major project for their degree, they enter the coursework portion of their master's studies with 12 graduate credits, rendering the original intent of the prerequisite toothless for them.

Further, we have subsequently opened our program up to students who were not in the 4+1 program, as well as those who were in the program but, for one reason or another, failed to complete its undergraduate portion. These graduate students are currently required to complete a 12-credit capstone project, rendering the original purpose of the prerequisite redundant for them.

For our current students, we have eliminated the prerequisite on an ad hoc basis, but would like to make this change official.

Since we have opened our graduate program up to students outside the 4+1 program, and many of them are planning to enter fields other than policing, it might be beneficial for many of our students to take a policy course early in their graduate careers, to help them develop a broad community-oriented perspective. We will be adding courses to our curriculum, effective in the summer of 2021, that will allow students to complete a course of study not solely focused on police work. In furtherance of this aim, we are teaching, and will continue to teach, our policy seminar with a broad focus that goes beyond law enforcement. Current issues surrounding law enforcement would seem to compel a broad, community-based policy focus that includes but is not limited to policy surrounding the police qua police.

Finally, we are seeking to increase the flexibility of our program from the students' perspective, in order to allow them to take a realistic courseload if they are working full time. Towards this end, we are making as many courses as we can self-contained, without prerequisites.

The expected outcomes of this change are the facilitation of student success through more flexible scheduling, allowing students to pursue individualized and realistic timetables for the completion of their degrees, and the ability to serve a diverse array of CJ graduate students effectively, not only those who are focused on policing.

Thank you for your attention.

Is this an Extended Campus course? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Course syllabus must be attached and completed according to Fitchburg State guidelines.

☐ Reviewed by Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Form

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**Required Signatures—Graduate and Continuing Education Course Change Approval**

Course Change Initiator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Council Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Indicates Graduate Council approval)

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_