Course Name: Law and Society   
Course Prefix: CJ  
Course Number: 4065  
             Submitted by (Name & E-Mail):  Monica Williams, monicawilliams@weber.edu

Current Date:  3/4/2014  
College: Social & Behavioral Sciences  
Department:   Criminal Justice                                
From Term: Fall  2014

Substantive

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| new | Current Course Subject N/A Current Course Number |

**New/Revised Course Information:**

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| --- | --- |
| Subject:  CJ  Course Number: 4065 | Check all that apply:  *This is for courses already approved for gen ed.     Use a*[*different form*](http://documents.weber.edu/catalog/forms.htm)*for proposing a new gen ed designation.* DV  CA  HU  LS  PS  SS  EN  AI  QL  TA  TB  TC  TD  TE |

Course Title: Law and Society

Abbreviated Course Title: Law and Society

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| --- | --- |
| Course Type: | LEC |

Credit Hours:  3  **or** if variable hours:    to

Contact Hours: Lecture   Lab    Other

Repeat Information:  Limit 0   Max Hrs 0

Grading Mode:  standard

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This course is/will be: | a required course in a major program a required course in a minor program a required course in a 1- or 2- year program elective |

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:

Course description (exactly as it will appear in the catalog, including prerequisites):

This course explores how law operates in society and how society influences the nature of the law. Topics may include the role of race in law, legal consciousness, efficacy of legal action, and the nature of the legal profession. Students may take either POLS 4065 or CJ 4065, but may not take both courses.

**Justification**for the new course or for changes to an existing course. (Note: Justification should emphasize academic rationale for the change or new course. This is particularly important for courses requesting upper-division status.)

Law & Society is currently listed as a Political Science course (POLS 4060). This proposal would cross-list the current Law & Society course as POLS/CJ 4065(we have had a CJ 4060 course in the past, so we cannot use this number for the new course; the non-substantive change to the POLS course number is currently underway). Law and society is an interdisciplinary field and faculty members in Political Science and Criminal Justice departments currently teach and research in the area of law and society. Students who take the current POLS 4060 course are generally a combination of Political Science and Criminal Justice majors. Currently, POLS 4060 is an elective for the Political Science major and minor and a requirement for the Legal Studies minor. The new course would keep the same status in both programs. It would also become an elective for the Criminal Justice major and minor. The course will be substantially similar whether taught by Political Science or Criminal Justice faculty and the two departments would never offer the course in the same semester. This course will be an important addition to the Criminal Justice program. Courses in the Criminal Justice major currently cover all aspects of the legal system as an institution. As our students become professionals in the Criminal Justice field, it is important for them to have the ability to think critically about the laws they are asked to uphold. For this reason, our students would greatly benefit from offering Law & Society as an elective in the major and minor. The course aims to help students understand the societal foundations of the law and how law operates in society. The course covers key issues such as the meaning of law and justice in an unequal society, the role of law in everyday life, and gaps between the law on the books and law in action. Some Criminal Justice students already take POLS 4060 and creating a cross-listed course would increase interest among Criminal Justice students.

**INFORMATION PAGE**for substantive proposals only

1. Did this course receive unanimous approval within the Department?

true

If not, what are the major concerns raised by the opponents?

The proposal to cross-list the course has received unanimous approval in both the Political Science and Criminal Justice departments.

2. If this is a new course proposal, could you achieve the desired results by revising an existing course within your department or by requiring an existing course in another department?

The Criminal Justice department currently has no existing course that covers the same topic as the proposed CJ 4065 course. We could not achieve the desired results by requiring that Criminal Justice students take the existing POLS 4060 course because Criminal Justice faculty who have expertise in the field of Law and Society would not have the opportunity to teach the course if it were solely a Political Science course. Furthermore, a cross-listed course would better reflect the nature of the field of Law and Society because the field itself is interdisciplinary with scholars from a variety of disciplines, including Political Science and Criminal Justice.

3. How will the proposed course differ from similar offerings by other departments? Comment on any subject overlap between this course and topics generally taught by other departments, even if no similar courses are currently offered by the other departments. Explain any effects that this proposal will have on program requirements or enrollments in other department. Please forward letters (email communication is sufficient) from all departments that you have identified above stating their support or opposition to the proposed course.

The Political Science department currently offers a Law & Society course (POLS 4060) and the course is part of the interdisciplinary Legal Studies minor. The coordinator of the Legal Studies minor, the Political Science department chair and faculty, and the Criminal Justice faculty agree that as an interdisciplinary course, Law & Society should be listed as a POLS/CJ course. In addition, anecdotal evidence from the current instructor of POLS 4060 suggests that students who enroll in the course are a combination of Political Science and Criminal Justice majors. As a POLS/CJ course, Law & Society will still be a requirement for the Legal Studies minor and an elective for the Political Science major and minor.

4. Is this course required for certification/accreditation of a program?

no

If so, a statement to that effect should appear in the justification and supporting documents should accompany this form.

5. **For course proposals**, e-mail a syllabus to [Faculty Senate](mailto:kbrown4@weber.edu) which should be sufficiently detailed that the committees can determine that the course is at the appropriate level and matches the description.**There should be an indication of the amount and type of outside activity required in the course (projects, research papers, homework, etc.)**.