Information and Application for Spring 2025 Embedded Course

**CRIMJ 499: Comparative Drug Policies, Social Interventions, and Health (3 credits)**

* For Criminal Justice majors, this class will count as a required 400-level course and an International Cultures (IL) requirement.
* For CRIM majors (UP), this class will count as a 400-level Non-CORE CRIMJ course and an International Cultures (IL) requirement.
* For other majors, this class will count as an International Cultures (IL) requirement.

Course Description:

The United States is currently experiencing its worst drug overdose crisis. More than 100,000 Americans died from a drug overdose in 2023, a death rate much higher than any other country in the world. Most of these overdose deaths are due to opioids, a class of drugs that includes morphine, heroin, fentanyl, and prescription medications (ex. OxyContin). This class will explore the reasons why the United States is currently experiencing such a devastating opioid crisis while most other countries are not. The class will offer a historical comparative analysis of drug policies in the United States and Europe that can help inform innovative solutions to the current problem in the United States.

This multidisciplinary course includes required travel to the Netherlands during spring break 2025 to participate in a program that examines drug policies and related social/health outcomes in the Netherlands. While the Netherlands experienced a serious opioid crisis in the 1980s and 1990s, their approach to addressing the problem was very different from the United States. Students will visit agencies related to the course topics, interact with experts in the field, assess best practices, and engage with community agencies helping people with mental health and addiction problems. Through these firsthand experiences, students will assess the merits of the Dutch approach to regulating drugs and addressing mental health needs, while analyzing how effective these approaches would be in the United States.

Course Format:

Online, asynchronous coursework for the first 8 weeks of the spring semester, followed by one week of in-person course activities in the Netherlands. Final project will be due in April.

Travel Information:

Students will travel to Amsterdam, arriving on March 8, 2025 (overnight flight on 3/7). Class activities will occur March 9-14. While students will book their own flight, we will identify a group flight and encourage group travel.

Program Fee: $1500-1700 (exact cost to be determined)

The program fee includes:

* Hotel accommodation for 7 nights (double occupancy) in Amsterdam. Hotel includes free wifi.
* Daily breakfast at the hotel.
* Ground transportation in the Netherlands, including pickup/drop-off at the Amsterdam airport and travel for program activities (including a daytrip to the Hague). Public transit pass for the week.
* Dutch/English-speaking guide with daily hotel pickup for program activities.
* Welcome dinner and 2 lunches during the week.
* All program activities in the Netherlands.

The program fee does not include:

* Tuition fees if not part of normal credit load.
* Passport application fee (if you do not have a passport)
* Roundtrip flight to Amsterdam (est. $600-700)
* Lunch/dinner on most days
* Free time activities

Please email the application below to jxm1192@psu.edu.

Preferred deadline is October 21st. Students will be notified of their acceptance on a rolling basis. You must submit a deposit of $500 by November 1st to commit to the program (check or money order).

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PSU ID (9 digits) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class year (freshman, year 2, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Major\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Minor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a valid passport? Yes No Nationality listed on Passport \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to Dr. Murphy to examine my academic and student conduct records Yes No

1. Have you previously participated in a learning abroad activity? (if so, when/where)
2. Why are you interested in this course and travel experience?
3. How can this course fit with your major or other goals you have?