

Criminal Justice Studies

Chair or Program Director: Frank Hutchins, Ph.D., Program Director
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Faculty:

Faculty: Curtis Bergstrand, Ph.D.; Matisa Wilbon, Ph.D.
Adjunct Faculty: William Curley, M.A.; Kathy Eigelbach, M.S.; Nancy Schrepf, Psy.D.; Greg Smith, M.A

An interdisciplinary degree, the B.A. in Criminal Justice Studies offers a variety of courses which give the student a unique perspective on the criminal justice system and prepares them for leadership roles in this career area. In addition to applied and experiential classes which give practical and “hands-on” knowledge, selected humanities courses in philosophy, psychology, and literature provide interpretations of issues involving crime and society that can only be found in a truly liberal arts education. Faculty in the program have been selected because of their vast experience in the criminal justice field, from criminal profiling to police and correctional administration and law.

Program Mission Statement

The Criminal Justice Studies program seeks to prepare students for careers and graduate work in the field of criminal justice by grounding their education in a broad liberal arts perspective on crime and society. In addition to giving them research skills, theoretical insights, and practical experiences in the real world where these skills and insights can be applied the program emphasizes an interdisciplinary perspective in understanding the issue of crime. These perspectives include, but are not limited to, psychology, philosophy, and the humanities. Our goal is to prepare students to become leaders who can understand and converse with others on a macro level of social and cultural understanding. Finally, the student is encouraged to assume a social justice perspective in the understanding of crime and society. A particular emphasis is placed upon understanding the offender’s perspective on crime and their involvement in it.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Discuss the biological, psychological, and criminological origins of criminal behavior.
2. Identify connections between theory and research in the construction of scientific knowledge.
3. Demonstrate proficiency with fundamental data manipulation tools and methodologies.
4. Conduct an independent research project.
5. Present an independent research project.
6. Apply theory in discussions of various components of the criminal justice system, from the police and the courts to the prison system.

Degree Requirements

- [Requirements for a Major in Criminal Justice Studies](#)
- [Requirements for a Minor in Criminal Justice Studies](#)

Environmental Studies

Chair or Program Director: Robert W. Kingsolver, Ph.D., Dean
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Faculty: Katherine Bulinski, Ph.D.; Martha Mazur, Ph.D.

Mission Statement

The Bellarmine University School of Environmental Studies is dedicated to environmental literacy, to an interdisciplinary approach to environmental scholarship, and to formation of a more ecologically sustainable society, both on our campus and throughout our region.

The Environmental Studies Department housed within the School offers two academic majors: a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies and a B.S. in Environmental Science. The program also offers and an academic minor in Environmental Studies.

Learning outcomes

Both Environmental Studies and Environmental Science students will demonstrate mastery of environmental principles and will analyze environmental issues in well-developed written or oral arguments. In addition, students earning the B.A. in Environmental Studies will demonstrate competence in a professional context. Students completing the B.S. in Environmental Science will demonstrate competence in a research (laboratory and field) context.

The B.S. in Environmental Science examines ecological processes, the causes and consequences of human impacts on the natural world, and technologies needed to minimize or mitigate environmental problems. This is a science degree, integrating life and physical sciences to develop a capacity for environmental research and technological problem solving. Graduates of this degree program are best prepared for graduate work and careers in environmental technology, environmental monitoring, conservation biology, and environmental science research.

The B.A. in Environmental Studies emphasizes the political, economic, and sociological aspects of environmental issues. Environmental studies students need sufficient natural science background to understand the consequences of human impact on the natural world, and sufficient social science background to develop and implement effective policy solutions. This is an integrated studies degree with a strong international dimension, including intermediate competency in foreign language. Because it draws more extensively from economics, sociology, political science, and global languages and cultures, the B.A. degree is more appropriate for students intending graduate study and careers in environmental planning, international development, environmental communications, and environmental education.

The Minor in Environmental Studies emphasizes fundamental principles of environmental science, field study, examination of environmental issues from a social science perspective, and a senior capstone experience applying environmental study to real-world problems. The minor is designed to enrich majors in business, education, professional studies, health sciences, or arts and sciences majors.

Degree Requirements

- [Requirements for a Bachelor of Arts Major in Environmental Studies](#)
- [Requirements for a Bachelor of Science Major in Environmental Science](#)
- [Requirements for a Minor in Environmental Studies](#)

Global Languages and Cultures

Chair or Program Director: Nelson López, MFA, Ph.D, Chair
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The Department of Global Languages and Cultures is committed to helping Bellarmine students gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living and communicating in the globally interdependent and culturally diverse world of the 21st century.

Studying world languages not only provides students with valuable insights into other cultures, but it also confronts students with their own language, culture, and values. Knowledge of a foreign language serves as a solid basis for a broad liberal arts education. Proficiency in a foreign language provides the extra edge in the highly competitive world of trade and commerce, international relations, government, and research.

Learning Outcomes

The goals of the Department are to teach students to understand, speak, and write a world language so that they may:

- develop their intellectual capabilities and study habits through world language study.
- increase their understanding of how language functions and, through the study of a world language, develop a greater awareness of their own language.
- keep current on the latest academic methodology and scholarly research across national barriers.
- increase their personal awareness of culture through the study of great literature, philosophy, art, and music in the target language.
- gain a greater understanding of people across national barriers, by developing sympathetic insights into the ways of thinking of the people whose languages they study.
- be able to reflect on their own heritage and customs.
- enhance their chances in today's competitive world of global employment for initial recruitment and further advancement.

While many of Bellarmine students studying a world languages have cultural, social, political, and economic interests in order to support and broaden their studies in other fields, Bellarmine's program is aimed toward preparing students for graduate school and a global job market, by offering a major in Foreign Languages and International Studies, a major in Spanish, minors in French, German, and Spanish, and a minor in International Studies.

Degree Requirements

- [Requirements for a Major in Foreign Languages and International Studies](#)
- [Requirements for a Major in Spanish](#)
- [Requirements for a Minor in French, German, and Spanish Languages](#)
- [Requirements for a Minor in International Studies](#)

Peace Studies

Chair or Program Director: J. Milburn Thompson, Ph.D Alumni Hall 100, Phone 502.272.8178, jthompson@bellarmine.edu

Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, Ph.D. Alumni Hall 112, Phone 502.272.8031 ehinsonhasty@bellarmine.edu

The minor in Peace Studies seeks to respond to our times in a way consistent with the mission and vision of Bellarmine University.

Ours is a time of terrorism, ethnic conflict, international tension, proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and small arms, failed states, wars, economic disparity, environmental calamity, conflict over resources, national polarization, racial tension, alienation from community, violence, and divorce. Yet humanity yearns for community, struggles for justice, and hopes for peace. Peace Studies is a fitting response to our age.

A minor in Peace Studies also fits with the mission and vision of Bellarmine University. The Christian tradition has wrestled with the question of war and peace from the teaching and witness of Jesus through the ruminations of Thomas Merton. Peacemaking has been one of the principles of contemporary Catholic social teaching, resulting in The Challenge of Peace, the 1983 Pastoral by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the intervention in the “Velvet Revolution” in Eastern Europe by Pope John Paul II. Peace Studies will contribute to the leadership and service in a changing global community that we expect from Bellarmine graduates.

The goal of this Peace Studies program is to encourage the study of conflict resolution, nonviolence, war and its ethical justification, and community building on international, national, communal, and interpersonal levels. As a result of a minor in Peace Studies students should be able to:

- Explain and demonstrate conflict resolution and communication skills.
- Explain the principles of nonviolence and the techniques of nonviolent direct action.
- Explain and critique the just war tradition and its use in the contemporary world.
- Discuss intelligently at least one past or current international conflict and its (potential) resolution.
- Discuss justice and community as the foundations of peace.

There are a number of agencies, both internal and external, that support this program in peace studies. Bellarmine is home to the Thomas Merton Center, and an office of volunteerism and service learning. The Muhammad Ali Center makes Louisville a national focus for the promotion of peace. There are also a number of mediation centers (e.g. Brkthur, Council on Peacemaking, Family Mediation Services of Kentucky, Just Solutions, Louisville Mediation Services, Mediation First, Mediation Plus Inc., Mending Fences, Peace Education Program, Shalom Nisim Mediation Services) and peace-related organizations (e.g., The local chapters of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Amnesty International, Bread for the World, Center for Interfaith Relations, CLOUT, Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, Fairness Campaign, Interfaith Paths to Peace, Justice Resource Center, Ky Alliance Against Racial and Political Repression, Ky Coalition to abolish the Death Penalty, Louisville Peace Action Community, NAACP, etc.) in Louisville that are predisposed to be resources for a peace studies program.

The promotion of peace in its many forms is an appropriate way for Bellarmine to fulfill that part of its mission statement that promises to assist students as they “develop the intellectual, moral, ethical and professional competencies for successful living, work, leadership and service to others.”

Degree Requirements [Requirements for a Minor in Peace Studies](#)

Theology

Chair or Program Director: Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, Ph.D, Chair

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Faculty: Joseph S. Flipper, Ph.D.; Gregory K. Hillis, Ph.D.; George A. Kilcourse, Ph.D.; Deborah Prince, Ph.D.; J. Milburn Thompson, Ph.D.

As a Catholic university, Bellarmine takes faith seriously and considers the study of theology and religion essential for a truly liberal education. For this reason every student is required to take six credits in Theology—THEO 200 (Ultimate Questions), and one other upper level course. Students are, of course, encouraged to take more courses in theology. Courses in the Theology curriculum encourage students to reflect on the meaning of life, of religious faith, and of Christian living. While many of the courses in the curriculum are approached from the perspective of the Roman Catholic tradition, others take an ecumenical or interreligious approach.

A concentration (major or minor) in Theology provides a student with the opportunity for more extensive and intensive exploration of the religious and Christian experience. It is also an excellent focal point for the liberal arts and can serve as a preparation for graduate study in theology, ministry, religion, and related disciplines (philosophy, history, social sciences, law, etc.) or for work in the Church (education, ministry, etc.) or society. Thus the requirements for a major or a minor in Theology are designed to give a student an adequate foundation in the discipline and the flexibility to build a program to meet individual needs and goals.

Mission of the Theology Department

Theology is a constitutive element of a Catholic, liberal arts education at Bellarmine University. Christian theology offers the basis for the intrinsic value and dignity of each person and for the community of scholars and activists that Bellarmine fosters. The Catholic intellectual tradition is dedicated to seeking truth and to improving the human condition. Thus the Theology Department furthers the mission of Bellarmine University by introducing every student to Christian faith as a viable and intellectually respectable commitment, to the variety of religious experiences and traditions, and to morality and justice as integral to faith. A concentration in Theology allows students to explore more deeply the discipline of Theology.

Goals of the Theology Department

General Education Goals or Learning Outcomes

As a result of the two course requirement in Theology, students will be able to demonstrate:

- a basic understanding of Christian faith as a viable and intellectually respectable commitment
- basic theological literacy and concepts
- familiarity with the variety of religious experiences and traditions
- how religious morality and justice are integrated with faith
- a more developed understanding of at least one area of the discipline of Theology.

Degree Requirements

- [Requirements for a Major in Theology](#)
- [Requirements for a Minor in Theology](#)

Women's and Gender Studies

Chair or Program Director: Kathryn West, Ph.D., Co-Advisor
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Gender impacts everyone and yet we do not always think intentionally and systematically about the role that gender plays and continues to play in modern society and culture. The Women's and Gender Studies Program and the associated minor offer an umbrella for those who wish to concentrate study on women's experiences, masculinity, gender, GBLTQ experiences, and/or other questions of diversity. Students will have the opportunity to examine aspects of experiences that have traditionally been under represented in the academy--the lives and works of women, the experiences of gays and lesbians. Students will also examine gender as a cultural phenomenon. Students will encounter fundamental methodologies of women's and gender studies and work toward an increasingly rich understanding of gender as a social construction, one that intersects with class, race, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, and sexual identity.

Guided by the history and fundamentals of Women's and Gender Studies work, the program is intentionally interdisciplinary, drawing upon coursework in sociology, history, English, psychology, political science, religious studies, anthropology, and others. Classes explore everything from the expected--feminist theory and women's literature--to the unexpected, such as multicultural feminist perspectives, women and religion, gender portrayal in film, pressures imposed by contemporary patriarchal gender role expectations, and the political context of women's health.

This holistic approach means that students develop a broad understanding of the extent to which gender stereotypes, biases, and truths permeate all aspects of our culture. We do not, however, study simply cases of victimization and oppression, but in both academic and service learning experiences build awareness about how to create change for the better.

A minor in Women's and Gender Studies fits with the mission and vision of Bellarmine University as it emphasizes "each individual's intrinsic value and dignity" and seeks to engage "diverse students of many faiths, ages, nations, and cultures."

The minor is open to all students in the university and compatible with any major.

Degree Requirements

- [Requirements for a Minor in Women's and Gender Studies](#)