

## **Criminology, Law and Society Honors Seminar 2011-12 (CRIM 491/492)**

### **Bringing Victims Into the Criminal Justice System: Who Pays the Costs of Sexual Assault?**

When someone is sexually assaulted, what costs does the victim pay for the crime, and what costs does she or he pay for the criminal case? Why does the justice system impose costs on victims, and how can those costs be relieved? Would making the justice system more victim-friendly encourage victims to use the system to bring justice and accountability to offenders? How does the justice system help or hinder victims' recovery from sexual assault? The Department of Criminology, Law and Society's honors seminar for the 2011-12 academic year will examine these and other questions through a research project with a small group of high-achieving, highly motivated students. This project will contribute to and build upon a larger study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. The results of this research will be widely disseminated to help states and communities across the nation bring better balance to the scales of justice for victims of sexual assault.

This is not a traditional course with textbooks, lectures, tests and papers. Rather, students will work together as a team to understand the issues involved, develop research procedures, collect and analyze information, and report the findings in oral and written presentations. This will be a dynamic, active learning experience that gives students a taste of real-life applied, policy-oriented research. This is a particularly valuable experience for those interested in graduate study or law school. The honors series requires a one-year commitment to take CRIM 491 in the fall and CRIM 492 in the spring. Students who complete the series successfully will earn 6 credits in either the elective category or the skills category within the major (student's choice). These credits can be applied to the criminal justice concentration or the law and society concentration (student's choice). Those who earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher for these two classes will receive the honors designation on their degree.

Enrollment is by departmental approval. To be eligible for enrollment, students need to have:

- A GPA of at least 3.4
- Completed 60 credits prior to fall 2011
- Completed ADJ/CRIM 300 with at least a B, or be enrolled in CRIM 300 in fall 2011

The seminar will meet on Tuesday afternoons (1:30 to 4:10) on the Prince William campus, but class meetings will sometimes be substituted with field trips and fieldwork assignments. General information on the honors programs can be found at <http://cls.gmu.edu/adjhonors>.

The faculty sponsor of this seminar is Professor Lisa Newmark. If you're interested in enrolling or want further information, contact her at **[lnewmark@gmu.edu](mailto:lnewmark@gmu.edu)**.