

Brief Note for the Elective Course to be offered by the JGLS

Name of the Course: Comparative Criminal Justice

Name of the Faculty: Dr. Michael L. Valan, Associate Professor

Course Description:

The Comparative Criminal Justice (CCJ) course provides critical insights into how different countries and legal systems respond to crime, justice, and social order. Within Indian criminal justice curricula, global perspectives have often received limited attention. CCJ addresses this gap by examining the similarities and differences among international criminal justice systems and exploring how historical, cultural, political, and economic contexts shape approaches to law enforcement, adjudication, and corrections. By understanding these variations, students can evaluate best practices, identify systemic challenges, and work toward more effective and just responses to crime. Gaining a comparative perspective also deepens our understanding of the Indian criminal justice system by providing points of contrast, ultimately helping us to recognize areas for reform and improvement.

Criminal justice systems around the world differ in their structures and philosophies owing to the geographical differences, cultural differences and how they perceive a criminal behavior. For instance, while some nations emphasise rehabilitation and restorative practices, others focus heavily on deterrence and punishment. These differences reflect deeper societal values, including attitudes toward human rights, community responsibility, and balancing state control and individual freedoms. Comparative studies also deals with how countries address pressing global issues such as terrorism, human trafficking, cybercrime, drug trafficking, and transnational organised crime. Keeping this in mind, the course outlines the significance of learning comparative criminal justice. The course helps students understand the difference between substantive and procedural criminal law and how these differ across selected countries. Students will also gain knowledge of various police structures, court systems, correctional practices, and international criminal justice bodies. In addition, the course compares patterns of crime among selected countries. Taking together, it exposes students to comparative analysis of criminal justice systems, including crime, policing, procedures, courts, and corrections. In the end, this course equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to actively engage in discussions and initiatives related to comparing criminal justice systems across the world.

Teaching Methodology:

The teaching pedagogy for this course will include a combination of interactive and research-oriented approaches. Classroom lectures will be supplemented with discussions on important theoretical perspectives, policy frameworks and research-based readings to deepen conceptual understanding. Group discussions and audio-visual documentaries will be integrated to promote critical thinking and real-world relevance. Core concepts such as policing, courts, and corrections will be introduced through lectures supported by real-world examples, while comparative case studies and country profiles will encourage students to critically analyze differences in justice systems.

Intended learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the philosophies, structures, and practices of different criminal justice systems across the world.
- Critically compare policing, courts, and correctional approaches across selected countries.
- Assess global approaches to transnational crimes such as terrorism, cybercrime, drug trafficking, and human trafficking.
- Develop analytical skills to interpret and evaluate cross-national criminal justice systems.

Weekly Outline:

Weeks	Topics
1.	Nature and Scope of Comparative Criminal Justice (CCJ)
2.	Distinguish between comparative criminology and comparative criminal justice including related theories of CCJ
3.	Measuring and Comparing Crime in and around the world
4.	Substantive Law and Procedural Law in the selected countries
5.	An International Perspective on Policing
6.	An International Perspective on Courts
7.	An International Perspective on Corrections
8.	Juvenile Justice Across Countries
9.	Human Rights & Criminal Justice
10.	Transnational & Organized Crime
11.	International & Regional Justice Mechanisms
12.	Comparative Insights for India
13.	Future of Comparative Criminal Justice
14.	REVISION WEEK

Essential Readings:

- Reichel, P. L. (2013). *Comparative criminal justice systems: A Topical Approach*. Prentice Hall.
- Natarajan, M. (2005). *Introduction to international criminal justice*. Learning Solutions. McGraw-Hill
- Ebbe, O.N.I. (2013). *Comparative and international criminal justice systems: Policing, Judiciary, and Corrections, Fifth Edition*. CRC Press.
- Dammer, H.R. & Albanese, J.S. (2013). Comparative *Criminal Justice Systems*. Cengage Learning.
- Pakes, F. (2024). Comparative Criminal Justice (5th ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003390688>

To this course, the above books are essential readings, and the soft copies of all these books are available. Depending on the weekly topics, relevant chapters or sections from these books will be shared with the students as part of their readings.
