

Syllabus
CRIM1030
Courts & Judicial Process
2017

Committee Members:

Lauri Shultis, Central Community College
No Representative, Little Priest Tribal College
Dianne Sjuts, Metropolitan Community College
Courtney Johnston, Mid-Plains Community College
No Representative, Nebraska Indian College
Colleen Barnes, Northeast Community College
Matt McCarthy, Northeast Community College
Rita Dondlinger, Southeast Community College
Tiffany Wasserburger, Western Community College


Colleen Barnes (Jun 7, 2017)
Facilitator

The Institution agrees to the contents in this syllabus including course prefix, number, course description and other contents of this syllabus.

Deborah Brennan

Deborah Brennan (May 24, 2017)
Chief Academic Officer, Central Community College

Adopt

Betty Redleaf Collett

Betty Redleaf Collett (Jun 6, 2017)
Chief Academic Officer, Little Priest Tribal College

Not Offered

Thomas J. McDonnell

Thomas J. McDonnell (Jun 2, 2017)
Chief Academic Officer, Metropolitan Community College

Adopt

Jody Tomanek

Jody Tomanek (May 24, 2017)
Chief Academic Officer, Mid-Plains Community College

Adopt

Leland Henke

Leland Henke (May 23, 2017)
Chief Academic Officer, Nebraska Indian Community College

Not Offered

John Blaylock

John Blaylock (May 23, 2017)
Chief Academic Officer, Northeast Community College

Adopt

Dennis Headrick

Dennis Headrick (May 24, 2017)
Chief Academic Officer, Southeast Community College

Adopt

Kim Kuster Dale

Kim Kuster Dale (May 24, 2017)
Chief Academic Officer, Western Nebraska Community College

Adopt

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: CRIM1030
Course Title: Courts & Judicial Process
Prerequisite(s): None

Catalog Description: Surveys the United States judicial system. Topics include, but are not limited to, legal and constitutional concepts, institutions, and processes. Coverage includes adult and civil courts.

Credit Hours: 3.0 semester hours/4.5 quarter hours
Contact Hours: 45 hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

A. Course will:

1. Identify the various roles of courts within the judicial system in the United States.
2. Recognize the legal families that form the foundation for the American Judicial System; identify the origins of each.
3. Differentiate between private and public law.
4. Identify the branches of public law and list specific characteristics of each.
5. Compare and contrast substantive and procedural law.
6. Identify common misperceptions about the court process as discussed in class.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. Students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between private and public law.
2. Compare and contrast substantive and procedural law.
3. State the levels of courts found in the federal court system and describe the roles of each.
4. State the levels of courts found in the state court system and describe the roles of each.
5. Illustrate three important points about lawyers and the legal profession.
6. Examine the conduct of trials and the review of trial court rulings by appellate courts.
7. Differentiate between the courts and their functions.
8. Identify the formal processes of a trial and appeal.
9. Illustrate the sequence of events in the criminal justice system from the commission of a felony through the final disposition of a case.
10. Explain the process of plea bargaining and why it occurs.
11. Discuss the types of cases in federal district courts.
12. Describe and compare the two perspectives on judicial decision-making.

IV. COURSE CONTENT / TOPICAL OUTLINE (chronology may vary)

- A. Courts, Crime, and Controversy
- B. Law Crime
- C. Federal Courts
- D. State Courts
- E. The Dynamics of Courthouse Justice
- F. Prosecutors
- G. Defense Attorney
- H. Judges
- I. Defendants and Victims
- J. From Arrest and Bail to Arraignment
- K. Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence
- L. Negotiated Justice and the Plea of Guilty
- M. Trials and Juries
- N. Sentencing Options
- O. Sentencing Decisions
- P. Appellate and Habeas Corpus Review
- Q. Juvenile Courts

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The following texts are suggested for this course:
 - 1. Courts & Criminal Justice in America, Siegal, Prentice Hall, Latest Edition.
 - 2. America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System, Neubauer & Fradella, Cengage, Latest Edition.
 - 3. Procedures in the Justice System, C. Roberson, H. Wallace, & G.B. Stuckey, Pearson Education, Inc., Latest Edition.
- B. Supplemental Materials (handouts, articles, videos, website, etc.) to be supplied by the instructor.

VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture/Discussion
- B. Hybrid or Blended
- C. Online

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams
- B. Written Assignments
- C. Oral Assignments
- D. Projects

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

- A. Content and schedule determined by instructor.