



Purpose: It is the intention of this Administrative-Master Syllabus to provide a general description of the course, outline the required elements of the course and to lay the foundation for course assessment for the improvement of student learning, as specified by the faculty of Wharton County Junior College, regardless of who teaches the course, the timeframe by which it is instructed, or the instructional method by which the course is delivered. It is not intended to restrict the manner by which an individual faculty member teaches the course but to be an administrative tool to aid in the improvement of instruction.

Course Title – Court Systems and Practices

Course Prefix and Number – CRIJ 1306

Department – Criminal Justice

Division – Social and Behavioral Science

Course Type: (check one)

Academic General Education Course (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)

Academic WCJC Core Course

WECM course (This course is a Special Topics or Unique Needs Course: Y or N)

Semester Credit Hours # : Lecture hours# : Lab/other hours # **3:3:0**

Equated Pay hours for course - 3

List Lab/ Other Hours
Lab Hours
Clinical Hours
Practicum Hours
Other (list)

Course Catalog Description - Study of the judiciary in the American criminal justice system and the adjudication processes and procedures.

Prerequisites/Co requisites - THEA reading and writing requirements met.

Prepared by *ghunt*

Date *12-15-11*

Reviewed by department head *ghunt*

Date *12-15-11*

Accuracy verified by Division Chair *ghunt*

Date *12-15-11*

Approved by Dean of Vocational Instruction or Vice President of Instruction

Date

Lizbeth Ann Collins

12-15-11



I. Topical Outline – Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, clinical or other non-lecture instruction):

- A. Fragmented yet interdependent nature of the criminal justice court system
- B. Courthouse actors in the criminal justice process.
- C. The steps in the criminal justice process
- D. Sources of law
- E. Realities of criminal justice case processing compared to theory
- F. Controversies involved in the competing interests in the criminal justice system
- G. Comparisons of the American legal system with other systems in the world.

II. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcome	Method of Assessment
At the completion of the course the student will be able to: Evaluate the complexity of the legal system,	Tests over text material, participation in class discussions, research paper, homework research assignments
Specify the sources of law	Tests over text materials
Identify the stages of the criminal justice process.	Tests over text material
Assess the viability of the bail system, charging methods and plea bargaining;	Tests, participation in class discussions, homework and classroom exercises in which students role play the part of a prosecutor, a judge, a defense counsel or a defendant
Critically analyze the steps in a criminal trial;	Tests over text materials, participation in class discussions based on homework assignments focusing on ongoing criminal trials
Compare sentencing practices and judge the appropriateness of appeal procedures;	Tests over text materials, class discussions and homework concerning actual case sentences and resulting appeals
Identify venue and double jeopardy problems in criminal cases;	Tests over text materials, participation in class discussions based on actual cases and hypothetical scenarios
Evaluate juvenile proceedings, misdemeanor trials and legal proceedings challenging police and correctional conduct;	Tests over text materials, critical assessment of lawsuits against the police in homework assignments
Critique the adversary American system of justice	Tests over text materials, homework research assignments on procedures in other countries, written and verbal ability to defend or criticize the American system in class discussions or homework

III. Required Text(s), Optional Text(s) and/or Materials to be Supplied by Student.

- A. Siegel/Schmallegger/Worrall Courts and Criminal Justice in America; Prentice Hall Publisher or a textbook of the department's choosing by reputable authors and published by a reputable publisher.
- B. Internet access to social science databases and journals and legal materials
- C. Access to a computer and printer for preparing and submitting assignments



IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 35

V. List any specific spatial or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.

Instructor must have access to all appropriate technology for the ITV and online sections of this course.

VI. Course Requirements/Grading System – Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course

A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, F 69-0. Students must have a 70 grade point average or better to pass the class.

Four to six page research paper in APA style based on research on criminal trials or judicial systems. Page number requirement does not include, the title page, references page, exhibits, appendices or other attachments (30% to 40% of grade)

Reading of course textbook – necessary for successful test performance and participation in many class discussions

Research relevant to course topics – necessary for many class discussions, homework assignments and research paper

Participation in class discussions based on the text and outside research (10% to 20% of final grade)

Comprehensive final (minimum of 10% of final grade)

Periodic testing over assigned reading (minimum of 30% of final grade)

Homework assignments – necessary to evaluate reading and research skills (10% to 20% of final grade)

Class attendance – interaction with instructor and other students necessary for success in course and college success in general (5% to 10% of final grade)

VII. Curriculum Checklist

- **Academic General Education Course** (from ACGM – but not in WCJC Core)
No additional documentation needed

- **Academic WCJC Core Course**
Attach the Core Curriculum Checklist, including the following:

- Basic Intellectual Competencies
- Perspectives
- Exemplary Educational Objectives

- **WECM Courses**
If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix & Competencies Checklist.