



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 & 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

Course Catalog Description - This course is a study of the court system as it applies to the structures, procedures, practices and sources of law in American courts, using federal and Texas statutes and case law.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites – TSI satisfied in Reading and Writing

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

Prepared by Linda Clark

Date 2-28-14

Reviewed by Department Head Linda Clark

Date 2-28-14

Accuracy verified by Division Chair Amanda Shelton

Date 3/6/14

Approved by Dean or Vice President of Instruction *gghunt*

Date 3-17-14



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. All aspects of the American judicial system, jurisdiction, history and structure
- B. Fragmented yet interdependent nature of the criminal justice court system
- C. Courthouse actors in the criminal justice process and 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

Learning Outcomes	Methods of Assessment
<p>Upon successful completion of this course, students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the American judicial systems (civil, criminal, and juvenile), their jurisdiction, development and structure. 2. Analyze the function and dynamics of the courtroom work group. 3. Identify judicial processes from pretrial to appeal. 4. Describe the significant Constitutional Amendments, doctrines, and other sources of law in the American judicial system. 	<p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions, paper</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions</p> <p>Tests/quizzes, homework, discussions, paper</p>

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

Seigel, Larry J., Schmallegger, Frank and Worrall, John L., 2011, *Courts and Criminal Justice in America*, Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Prentice Hall

IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 35

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

none

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

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 0-69 F

- Tests/quizzes 40-60%
- Legal/systems analysis paper(s) 15-30%
- Homework 10-20%
- Discussions 10-20%
- Attendance 5-10%

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 Review Forms

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Empirical & Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Social Responsibility
- Personal Responsibility

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