



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.

Course Title – The Courts and Criminal Procedure

Course Prefix and Number – CRIJ 1306

Department – Criminal Justice

Division – Social and Behavior

Sciences

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 - The judiciary in the criminal justice system, the structure of the American court system, prosecution, the right to counsel, pretrial release, grand juries, the adjudication process, types and rules of evidence, and sentencing. Prerequisites: THEA reading and writing requirements met. Type: Acad.

Prerequisites/Corequisites - THEA reading and writing requirements met. Type: Acad.

Approvals – the contents of this document have been reviewed and are found to be accurate.

Prepared by Linda Foreman Clark	Signature 	Date 9-17-07
Department Head G.G. Hunt	Signature 	Date 9-17-07
Division Chair G.G. Hunt	Signature 	Date 9-17-07
Vice President	Signature 	Date 10-5-07



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 textbook of the department’s choosing by reputable authors published by a reputable publisher that contains information on the topics outlined in section I.

The textbook currently used by the department is:

Neubauer, David W. Meinhold, Stephen S. 2007, *Judicial Process Law, Courts, and Politics in the United 4th Ed.*, Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, ISBN 0495009946

Also required:

Internet access to social science databases and social science journals and legal materials

And
Computers and printers for preparing assignments.

IV. Suggested Course Maximum - 35

V. List any specific spatial or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the 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**
Attach the following:

- Program SCANS Matrix
- Course SCANS Competencies Checklist