

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Criminal Justice Program
Revision Date: 08-18-25

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
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Identify the various roles of courts within the judicial system in the United States.
- B. Recognize the legal families that form the foundation for the American Judicial System; identify the origins of each.
- C. Differentiate between private and public law.
- D. Identify the branches of public law and list specific characteristics of each.
- E. Compare and contrast substantive and procedural law.
- F. Identify common misperceptions about the court process as discussed in class.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Students will be able to: Explain the structure and jurisdiction of the federal, state, and local court systems in the United States.
 - 2. Describe the roles and responsibilities of key courtroom actors, including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, juries, and court staff.
 - 3. Identify the stages of the judicial process, from pretrial procedures through sentencing and appeals.
 - 4. Explain the impact of constitutional protections (e.g., due process, right to counsel, fair trial) on court operations and decision-making.
 - 5. Analyze contemporary issues and challenges in the judicial system, such as judicial discretion, sentencing disparities, and access to justice.
 - 6. Analyze the influence of politics, public opinion, and media on courts and judicial decision-making.
 - 7. Identify career opportunities within the court system and demonstrate an understanding of the professional and ethical standards required.
 - 8.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs):
 - 1. GELO 1: Oral Communication
Outcome 4: Competently communicate messages – both verbally and nonverbally – to a variety of audience types and in a variety of situations.
 - 2. GELO 2: Written Communication
Outcome 5: Read and write in mechanically-sound, college-level English.
 - 3. GELO 3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
Outcome 3: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, media, speech, or artistic presentations.

4. GELO 6: Career and Life Skills
Outcome 7: Demonstrate choices that reflect personal responsibility in one's academic, civic, social, and vocational/professional life.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- 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. Required Text: David W. Neubauer & Henry F. Fradella, *America's Courts and The Criminal Justice System*, Current Edition, Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- B. Other Resources: Varies by instructor

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture/Discussion
- B. Electronic Presentation
- C. Demonstrations
- D. Case Studies
- E. Field Trips
- F. Course Books
- G. Group Projects
- H. Hybrid, Blended, Virtual
- I. Online
- J. Subject Matter Experts

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams
- B. Quizzes
- C. Written Assignments
- D. Oral Assignments
- E. Practical Application
- F. Discussion
- G. Projects
- H. SCC STANDARD GRADING SCALE POLICY:

A+	95-100	C+	75-79
A	90-94	C	70-74
B+	85-89	D+	65-69
B	80-84	D	60-64
		F	Below 60

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. See individual instructor's course outline.