

**Syllabus**  
**CRIM 1030**  
**Courts & Judicial Process**  
**2023**

**Committee Members:**

Michael David, Central Community College  
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N/A, Little Priest Tribal College  
N/A, Nebraska Indian Community College

**Facilitator: Colleen Barnes**

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

 Chief Academic Officer, Central Community College	04/04/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Little Priest Tribal College	03/23/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Metropolitan Community College	04/03/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Mid-Plains Community College	03/23/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Nebraska Indian Community College	03/24/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Northeast Community College	03/23/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Southeast Community College	04/06/2023	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Western Nebraska Community College	03/23/2023	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. Open Educational Resources that meet the listed objectives/competencies and student outcomes, chosen at the instructors' discretion. These resources will be comparable in content to the textbooks listed above.
- B. Supplemental Materials (handouts, articles, videos, website, etc.) to be supplied by the instructor.

**VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture/Discussion
- B. Hybrid, Blended, or Virtual
- C. Online
- D. Subject Matter Experts

**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.