



**Course Name:** Criminal Court Systems and Practices

**Course Number:** CJS\* E282

**Credits:** 3

**Catalog description:**

**This course is an overview of the American federal and state criminal court systems. The course will identify the roles of judicial officers and provide a comprehensive outline of criminal trial processes from pretrial to sentencing. Emphasis will be placed on constitutional law, motion practice, the Federal Rules of Evidence, and the Connecticut criminal court system.**

**Prerequisite:** CJSE101

**Corequisite, or Parallel:** CJSE211

## **General Education Competencies Satisfied:**

**HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):**

None

**Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):**

None

## **Course objectives:**

**General Education Goals and Outcomes:**

None

**Course Specific Objectives:**

- 1) Trace the history, structure and function of state and federal criminal court systems and criminal procedure.
- 2) Discuss the impact of public opinion and the legislature on American criminal court systems.
- 3) Examine the relationship between the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the American criminal court system.



- 4) Identify both professionals in the criminal justice process and individual members of the criminal courtroom, and explain their specific roles in the trial process.
- 5) Analyze the impact of the victim and defendant upon the criminal courtroom process.
- 6) Explore the specific stages of the criminal trial process, from pretrial to sentencing, with additional emphasis placed on motion practice, evidence, hearsay and federal and state grounds for appeal.

### **Course Content:**

#### **PART I: FOUNDATIONS**

1. Legal Foundations
2. Historic Foundations
3. Who Controls the Courts?

#### **PART II: TYPES OF COURTS**

3. Federal Courts
4. State Courts
5. Juvenile Courts
6. Specialized Courts

#### **PART III: THE PEOPLE INVOLVED**

7. Judges
8. Prosecutors
9. Defense Attorneys
10. Defendants and Victims: Their Roles and Rights

#### **PART IV: THE COURT PROCESS**

11. Pretrial Procedures
12. Plea Bargaining and Guilty Pleas
13. The Jury and the Trial
14. Sentencing, Appeals, and Habeas Corpus

#### **PART V: CURRENT ISSUES AND THE FUTURE OF COURTS**

15. Differential Treatment and Wrongful Convictions
16. Technology, Alternatives, and the Future



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