



Course Description

CJL3564 | Judicial Policy Making | 3.00 credits

An analysis of the components, policies, and procedures of the court structure of the United States and various components. An analysis of local, state, and federal courts in the Criminal Justice System.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will explore the various parts of the American court system by:

1. Reviewing and discussing the dual court system
2. Reviewing and discussing the federal court system and its origins
3. Reviewing and discussing the state court system and its origins
4. Reviewing and discussing the local and specialized courts and their functions

Competency 2: The student will summarize the purposes of the court systems by:

1. Defining the courts of limited, general, and intermediate appellate courts
2. Defining the various concepts of “due justice,” “due process of law,” and “censure of wrongdoing”
3. Identifying the specific outcomes of the courts
4. Comparing the specific outcomes of the courts

Competency 3: The student will identify the key actors in the court process by:

1. Citing the role, responsibilities, and selection of the prosecutor
2. Recalling the roles and responsibilities of the different types of attorneys available to a person charged with a crime
3. Describing the judges' role, responsibilities, characteristics, and selection process
4. Outlining the role, responsibilities, characteristics, and jury selection

Competency 4: The student will analyze the fundamental concepts of the judicial process at pre-trial by:

1. Describing the purpose of an initial appearance and its requirements
2. Defining the bail process and the different types of available pre-trial release
3. Identifying the purpose of arraignment
4. Recognizing the role of the grand jury and explaining its functions

Competency 5: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the stages involved in a criminal trial by:

1. Summarizing the pretrial stages
2. Defining the initial appearance, preliminary hearing, and arraignment
3. Reviewing the proceedings of a government’s case
4. Reviewing the proceedings of the defense

Competency 6: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the criminal court trial process proceedings by:

1. Researching various charging processes
2. Explaining components of case presentations
3. Identifying the importance of closing arguments in the final case outcome

Competency 7: The student will be researching, analyzing, and describing various verdicts and understand judicial sentencing decisions by:

1. Describing how judges adapt sentences to fit the crime and the offender
2. Describing how judges adapt sentences to fit the crime and the offender
3. Comparing and contrasting the three basic types of determinate sentences

4. Listing the rationale for criminal punishment, including retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation and restoration

Competency 8: The student will understand when the death penalty may be imposed by:

1. Explaining the common arguments used in favor of the death penalty
2. Listing the arguments used against the death penalty
3. Analyzing trends in capital punishment in the United States
4. Comparing and contrasting the aggravating and mitigating factors in Florida and other death penalty states

Competency 9: The student will demonstrate knowledge of major judicial decisions by:

1. Researching *Roe v. Wade*
2. Studying death penalty cases such as *Gregg v. Georgia*
3. Understanding the role of appellate courts
4. Listing and describing the appeals processes in state and federal courts

Competency 10: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the rights of defendants and their due process by:

1. Defining the plea bargain process and analyzing its pros and cons
2. Describing pre-trial intervention programs
3. Listing and describing types of sentences
4. Reviewing constitutional rights of defendants under the Bill of Rights

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information