

Skyline College

Official Course Outline

Date: August 2008

1. **TITLE:**

ADMJ 205 – Judicial Process in California

3.0 units. Three lecture hours per week

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 836

2. **COURSE CLASSIFICATION:**

Credit course applicable to the Associate Degree, and to the Criminal Justice Certificate

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

An overview of the federal court system, the California courts, and administrative agency tribunals. Careful examination of roles and relationships of the courthouse work group.

Schedule of Classes Description:

Overview of the federal and California court system, and examination of the roles and relationships of the courthouse work group.

4. **COURSE JUSTIFICATION:**

This is a transfer course to fulfill General Education requirements of the Associate Degree (F3), and is transferable as follows: CSU. This course is an elective course in the Administration of Justice Program curriculum for students seeking a Criminal Justice Certificate.

5. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate their knowledge of the history, development, and fundamental aspects and operations of the American court system and judicial process, with emphasis on the federal and California court systems, and roles and functions of the courthouse work group.
- Compare and contrast the American judicial system with those of other jurisdictions; and identify the similarities and differences in the federal and state court, the adult and juvenile court, and between trial and appellate courts.
- Apply knowledge to analyze the court system and judicial process at all levels, and to effectively link them to public policy.

6. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

To assist students in reaching the goals outlined in the course SLO's, this course will include:

- Study of the history, evolution, and structure of the American judicial process and court systems.
- Exploration of the basic components, policies, and procedures of the court system, and its impact on the law, public policy, and justice in America.
- Analysis of the roles and responsibilities of the courthouse work group.
- Discussion of the dynamics of courthouse justice and its impact on contemporary society.

- Consideration of the value, necessity, and responsibility of the judicial process in balancing the major goals of criminal justice which are to control crime and protect liberty and due process rights.
- Examination, evaluation, and research of major court cases and decisions which are relevant to the court system and judicial process in America.

7. COURSE CONTENT:

- a. Overview of the Legal System
- b. Law and Crime
- c. Explaining Crime
- d. Federal Courts
- e. California Courts
- f. Dynamics of Courthouse Justice
- g. Judge
- h. Prosecutor
- i. Defense Attorney
- j. Jury
- k. Bailiff
- l. Court Clerk
- m. Court Reporter
- n. Victim
- o. Witness
- p. Defendant
- r. Processing the Accused
- s. Sentencing the Guilty
- t. Appellate Courts
- u. Juvenile Courts
- v. Court Cases

8. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Methods of instruction will include:

- Lectures on course lessons, text readings (25-50 pages assigned per week), and related topics, combined with class discussions to stimulate critical thinking and provide students with opportunities to demonstrate understanding of course material. Students are expected to take notes and engage in class and group discussions to maximize retention of the course material.
- Reviews of course related handouts, articles, illustrations, and current events to enhance the students' experience by exploring and applying material to a contemporary real-world setting.
- Audiovisual presentations which illustrate and enhance the concepts of topics covered in class.
- Tests, quizzes, research papers, and writing assignments to demonstrate comprehension of the course material through hands-on applications and written examinations.

Methods of instruction may also be augmented by:

- Practical demonstrations, displays, and in-class role-playing exercises, as applicable to the topic.
- Student interviews of criminal justice professionals and preparing a written report on the results.

- Guest speakers with expertise in various areas of criminal justice, to provide diverse and unique perspectives on a variety of controversial issues in their field.
- Field trips to law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies, courts, jails, and prisons.
- Individual student consultations, as necessary, to ensure that student learning is taking place.
- Practical work experience such as ride-alongs or other applicable site work to enhance learning.

9. ASSIGNMENTS:

Typical assignments:

- a. Research and Writing or Oral assignments about course related topics which demonstrate student knowledge, comprehension, and application skills, may include:
 - term papers, short papers, research papers, essay papers, and oral presentation reports.
 - reports on field interviews, site visits, observations, work performed, or film critiques.
- b. Case Study assignments to develop critical thinking and concept application, may include:
 - reviewing and critiquing Supreme Court, appellate court, and trial court cases.
 - responding to the questions, scenarios, or case studies included in text chapters.
- c. Tests and Quizzes, consisting of the written, oral, and/or practical application variety to assess comprehension of assigned readings, course content, and other related course activities.

10. EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

Typical methods of evaluation of student performance may include the following:

- a. Written examinations, such as quizzes, midterm exams, and final exams to demonstrate student understanding and proficiency skills concerning the material presented in the course.
- b. In-class and out of class assignments to demonstrate student ability to apply course concepts to assigned tasks utilizing comprehension, application, analysis, and critical thinking skills.
- c. Case study exercises to demonstrate student ability to integrate multiple concepts to solve realistic situations.
- d. Class discussions of course material to permit the exchange of ideas involving a variety of course related issues and concerns.
- e. Attendance and promptness, class citizenship and conduct, and participation and cooperation.
- f. Grading Method: Letter Grade.

11. RECOMMENDED or REQUIRED TEXT(S):

The recommended or required course textbook, selected at the discretion of the course instructor, may include (but is not limited to) the following suggested current editions on the subject matter:

- *America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System*, by David W. Neubauer; published by Cengage Learning.
- *Judicial Process in California*, by Robert A. Carp, Ronald Stidham, and Kenneth L. Manning; published by CQ Press.

- *Criminal Justice in California*, by Ellen G. Cohn; published by Pearson Prentice-Hall.