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**COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER:** CRJ 220  
**COURSE TITLE:** Judicial Process  
**LECTURE HOURS/WEEK:** 3.0  
**LAB HOURS/WEEK:** 0.0  
**CREDIT HOURS:** 3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)  
[Textbook Information](#)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course includes an overview of the law-making function of the courts, the growth of common law, the structure and organization of the courts, court processes and procedures involved in criminal and civil cases, and the question of reform for the administration of justice.

## **COURSE COMPETENCIES**

### **Module 1: Institutions of Law**

1. Analyze the relationship between courts and the government
2. Critique the evolution of the history of the courts
3. Recognize the impact the courts have in elections and politics
4. Discuss special interest, public opinion, and media influence on the courts
5. Recognize key characteristics of common law
6. Analyze the elements of the adversary system
7. Assess the major components of U.S. law
8. Describe the complexities of interpreting law
9. Formulate the components of the dual court system and jurisdiction
10. Critique relationships between trial and appellate courts
11. Describe relevant 18<sup>th</sup> century judicial landmarks
12. Explain the structure and role of the current (94) U.S. District Courts
13. Discuss the responsibilities of the U.S. Court of Appeals
14. Engage in debate over court caseload controversies
15. Discuss the history and types of state courts
16. Assess jurisdiction of lower courts versus major trial courts
17. Formulate reasons to support the court unification movement
18. Critique the successes and failures of drug courts

### **Module 2: Lawyers, Judges, and Consumers of Law**

1. Describe the history of legal education and law schools today
2. Recognize attorney licensing requirements
3. Explain ethical standards for attorneys
4. Identify bar associations and activities
5. Critique the work of lawyers
6. Formulate different types of access to legal services
7. Formulate strategies in judicial selection

8. Explain judicial election and meritorious selection processes
9. Describe examples of judicial misconduct
10. Discuss how a legal system (court) acquires its cases
11. Assess the concern growing volume of cases or “litigation explosion”
12. Critique different types of adjudication
13. Explain how judges make policy
14. Identify the role of interest groups in judicial policy-making
15. Recognize and explain the role of the media and the legal system

### **Module 3: Criminal Trial Courts**

1. Formulate the preliminary stages of criminal cases
2. Explain the difference between grand juries and trial juries
3. Recognize how the exclusionary rule affects criminal case processing
4. Discuss case attrition and *nolle prosequi*
5. Apply the “wedding cake” analogy in the treatment criminal cases
6. Identify members and tasks of the “courtroom workgroup”
7. Assess the many faces of plea bargaining
8. Differentiate among the different types of penalties and punishments
9. Discuss sentencing guidelines and disparities
10. Critique controversies concerning the death penalty

### **Module 4: Civil Trials and Appellate Review**

1. Describe how civil cases begin and conclude
2. Examine the need for national tort reform
3. Discuss the advantages of Alternative Dispute Resolution
4. Formulate the steps in a civil lawsuit
5. Explain the history and function of the jury system
6. Critique the steps in the jury selection process
7. Evaluate the opening statement process by the prosecutor and the defense
8. Discuss the affects of pretrial publicity
9. Debate the concept of jury nullification
10. Analyze the nature of the appellate process
11. Describe the business of appellate courts
12. Identify post-conviction reliefs
13. Explain the four broad categories of the appellate court decision making process
14. Evaluate the role of state supreme courts and U.S. Courts of Appeals
15. Discuss the history and characteristics of the U.S. Supreme Court
16. Describe U.S. Supreme Court case processing systems
17. Assess how the Supreme Court decides what to decide
18. Recognize the role of lawyers, interest groups, and solicitors in the Court’s actions
19. Formulate the process of nominating and confirming Supreme Court Justices
20. Describe the complexities of writing opinions

### **MINIMAL STANDARDS**

CRJ 220 Judicial Process is designed for completion in one semester. A final grade of “C” must be earned for successful completion of this course. Failure to accumulate enough points for a letter grade of “C” would mean that competencies for the course have not been adequately met. Therefore, students earning a final grade lower than C must repeat the course.

All assignments/assessments are expected to be submitted and completed within the specified time frame. Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor and will be outlined in the addendum to the syllabus.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Attendance Policy**

The Attendance Policy contained in the College Catalog and Handbook will be enforced. Students are responsible for all material covered and for all assignments made in all classes. Students are responsible for attending all scheduled meetings in the courses in which they are enrolled until they have completed all course requirements.

### **Withdrawal from a Course**

A student may withdraw from a course until midterm with a grade of "W." To withdraw from a course, the student obtains a Request for Withdrawal from their instructor or from Student Services. To withdraw after midterm and receive a grade of "W," the student must personally see the Instructor for approval. All other students will receive a grade of "WF."

The instructor may initiate a withdrawal from class if student:

- has not been in contact with the instructor within the first two (2) weeks of the term
- has not submitted assignments as specified
- has not completed assignments in proctored setting as specified
- has been absent from a class more than 20 percent of the hours assigned

### **Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

The policies stated in the York Technical College Catalog and Handbook will be enforced. Any student involved in cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty will be given a grade of zero and will be subject to further disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes using another's work or words without giving proper credit to the source, cheating on tests and other assignments.

## **EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING**

The final course grade will be determined by a student's performance on the four modules. Each module grade will be comprised of objective and/or essay question exams or quizzes, written and group discussions or assignments, and written projects or papers as required by the instructor. Each module grade will account for a percentage of the course grade as shown below:

Module 1: Exam, Written and Oral assignments - 20%

Module 2: Exam, Written and Oral assignments - 20%

Module 3: Exam, Written and Oral assignments - 20%

Module 4: Exam, Written and Oral assignments, written project or paper - 40%

### **Grading Scale**

A 90 - 100

B 80 - 89

C 70 - 79

D 60 - 69

F Below 60

**ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS:** Not Applicable

**PREREQUISITES:** RDG 100 and ENG 100 or equivalent test scores

**CO-REQUISITES:** None

**Disabilities Statement:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Special Resources Offices (SR) at 803-327-8007 in the 300 area of Student Services. The SRO coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.