



BAKER COLLEGE

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

CRJ3710 Criminal Courts

3 Semester Hours

Student Learning Outcomes and Enabling Objectives

1. Investigate the American system of justice.
 - a. Explain how historical events form the foundation for the American Court System.
 - b. Determine whether the American system of justice is inherently prejudiced.
 - c. Explain the importance of both criminal and civil courts to the American justice system.
 - d. Discuss why there is a common law system of courts.
 - e. Discuss the benefits of having elected and/or appointed judges.
2. Examine a case as it moves through the criminal courts system.
 - a. Demonstrate how a case moves through the court system (civil vs. criminal).
3. Connect the criminal courts system with the various roles of participants.
 - a. Examine how access to the court system is governed by socio-economic status.
 - b. Discuss the impact of a recurring criminal and how he/she is “labeled” by the criminal court system.
 - c. Discuss the cumulative impact of working in the criminal court system seeing recurring themes.
 - d. Examine the focus on courtroom security in modern society.
 - e. Explain how *stare decisis* or precedent decision-making govern modern jurists.
 - f. Explain how juries are affected by local populations (city vs. rural; race; socio-economic status).
 - g. Explain what role the media has in influencing the court process.
4. Analyze the rationale behind the use of different types of sentencing.
 - a. Examine how history affects modern trends in sentencing.
 - b. Discuss how balance and restorative justice differ from traditional sentencing norms.
 - c. Determine the fairness of mandatory sentencing norms.
5. Relate how technology impacts the criminal courts system.
 - a. Explain how TV technology (the CSI effect) is changing the courtroom tactics.
 - b. Explain how proper documentation plays a role in criminal courts with respect to chain of custody and recordkeeping.
 - c. Discuss how continued efforts to become paperless affect the criminal courts.
6. Evaluate the role ethics plays in each step of the criminal court process.
 - a. Defend your view on whether plea bargaining is ethical.
 - b. Discuss how ethics and self-policing are important to attorneys and to the criminal courts.
 - c. Explain whether the courts should trust the testimony of paid experts.

Big Ideas and Essential Questions

Big Ideas

- Ethics
- Dynamic aspect of the courts
- Societal Issues
- Process/participants

Essential Questions

1. What impacts the dynamics of the criminal court system? (dynamic aspects of the courts)
2. How does technology impact the criminal court system and the participants of a trial? (societal issues)
3. How do the roles of the participants affect the process of the criminal court system? (process/participants)
4. How are ethics interwoven into the tapestry of the criminal court system? (ethics)