

Bemidji State University

CRJS 1000: The American Legal System

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Examines the most important themes in the American legal system. Introduces students to the legal institutions, including the constitutional basis of the law, the justification of criminal law, the rationale for punishment, and the stages and people in the American legal process. Liberal Education Goal Area 9

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 07/18/2001 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Students will introduced to the relationship between law and society
2. Defining law and justice as these concepts have developed historically in the United States.
3. How structure and function of the civil and criminal systems help to promote or detract from important precepts on which the American legal system is based.
4. Compare media depictions of the American legal system to text materials
5. Issues essential to the understanding of law and society will be explored and discussed
6. Introduce students to real life issues in the justice system.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. develop an understanding of the pervasive role of law in society
2. develop an understanding of the interaction of social science and law
3. develop an understanding of how law is used as an instrument of behavioral and social change
4. develop an understanding of what the future is of the role of law in society

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. No Competencies Indicated
2. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
3. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
4. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
5. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
6. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted