

Minnesota State University Moorhead

SOC 307: Sociology of Courts

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

- SOC 110 - Introduction to Sociology

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Analyzes the criminal court as an organization; the prosecutor, the defense attorney, judges, officers, and professionals as a "work group" with pragmatic goals and working arrangements; and plea negotiations as the ordinary work technique. MnTC Goal 9.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/1995 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. The structure of The United States court system.
2. The role of different personnel with the United States court system.
3. The decision-making process within the court system.
4. The impact of legal decision on the lives of United States residents.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will become familiar with the structure of the United States court system.
2. Students will be able to understand to roles of those operating within the court system; in particular the role of prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and juries.
3. Students will learn the process of jury selection.
4. Students will gain an appreciation for how court decisions are determined.

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

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted