# 8/11/2020

# brcc keystone logo

Baton Rouge Community College

*Academic Affairs Master Syllabus*

Date Approved: 4 September 2020

Term and Year of Implementation: Fall 2020

**Course Title:** Court Systems and Practices

**BRCC Course Rubric:** CJUS 2613

**Previous Course Rubric**: CJUS 120

**Lecture Hours per week-Lab Hours per week-Credit Hours**: 3-0-3

**Per semester: Lecture Hours-Lab Hours-Instructional Contact Hours**: 45-0-45

**Louisiana Common Course Number:** CCRJ 2613

**CIP Code:** 43.0104

**Course Description:** Introduces the role and structure of prosecution, defense, and the courts, and basic elements of substantive and procedural law.

**Prerequisites:**  CJUS 1013 (or CJUS 101) with a grade of C or better

**Co-requisites:** None

**Suggested Enrollment Cap:** 35

**Learning Outcomes.** *Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:*

1. Demonstrate an understanding of basic operations of local, state, and federal courts in the United States.

2. Identify key actors in the legal process and examine the roles they play.

3. Examine the main steps in the processing of a criminal felony case and consider the influences of discretion and localized practices in decisions made at each step.

4. Identify and apply the issues involved in sentencing options and decisions.

**Assessment Measures.** Assessment of all learning outcomes will be measured using the following methods:

1. Administer instructor created objective exams during the semester to demonstrate the students’ abilities in understanding, defining, identifying, and applying their knowledge of court systems and practices.

**Information to be included on the Instructor’s Course Syllabi:**

* ***Disability Statement*:** Baton Rouge Community College seeks to meet the needs of its students in many ways. See the Office of Disability Services to receive suggestions for disability statements that should be included in each syllabus.
* ***Grading:*** The College grading policy should be included in the course syllabus. Any special practices should also go here. This should include the instructor’s and/or the department’s policy for make-up work. For example in a speech course, “Speeches not given on due date will receive no grade higher than a sixty” or “Make-up work will not be accepted after the last day of class”.
* ***Attendance Policy*:** Include the overall attendance policy of the college. Instructors may want to add additional information in individual syllabi to meet the needs of their courses.
* ***General Policies*:** Instructors’ policy on the use of things such as beepers and cell phones and/or hand held programmable calculators should be covered in this section.
* ***Cheating and Plagiarism*:** This must be included in all syllabi and should include the penalties for incidents in a given class. Students should have a clear idea of what constitutes cheating in a given course.
* ***Safety Concerns:*** In some courses, this may be a major issue. For example, “No student will be allowed in the lab without safety glasses”. General statements such as, “Items that may be harmful to one’s self or others should not be brought to class”.
* ***Library/ Learning Resources:*** Since the development of the total person is part of our mission, assignments in the library and/or the Learning Resources Center should be included to assist students in enhancing skills and in using resources. Students should be encouraged to use the library for reading enjoyment as part of lifelong learning.

**Expanded Course Outline:**

I. The Legal System

A. How public opinion and the legislature impact the courts and the criminal justice system

B. Working definitions of both procedural and substantive law, including the rights of the accused

C. The history of federal courts and the current structure of the federal courts and the current structure of the federal judiciary

D. The history, structure, and function of state courts

II. The Role of Legal Actors within the Court System

A. The dynamics of assembly-line justice, discretion, and the courtroom workgroup

B. The prosecutor’s role and influence within the criminal justice system

C. How day-to-day realities and interaction between clients and lawyers affect the role of the defense attorney

D. How conflicting ideas, powers, responsibilities, and internal pressure define the work of the judiciary

E. The influence of both victims and the defendants on the courtroom process

III. The Steps of the Criminal Process from Arrest to the Determination of Guilt or Innocence

A. How the various events of the crime and the quality of arrests affects the early stages of a criminal case

B. How pretrial release works, the factors that shape its operations, and the significance of bail on this process

C. How evidence is gathered, disclosed, and excluded from the court process

D. The practice of negotiated justice and rationale behind plea-bargaining

E. How the trial process works, especially as it pertains to jury trials

IV. Specialized Courts and their Importance to the Criminal Justice System

A. How the binding decisions of appellate courts attempt to achieve conformity of the law

B. The concept of speedy and rough justice as it applies to courts of limited jurisdiction

C. How the juvenile court philosophy of saving and protecting children conflicts with its punishment function

V. Sentencing the Convicted

A. Sentencing Options

B. Sentencing Decisions

C. Sentencing discrimination and disparity