

Revised: Fall 2012
Spring 2012
Fall 2013
Fall 2014
Fall 2015
Fall 2016

ADJ 120

Introduction to Courts

COURSE OUTLINE

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

Presents an overview of the American judiciary--the federal and 50 state judicial systems--with emphasis on criminal court structures, functions, and personnel; surveys the judicial system in Commonwealth of Virginia.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3

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ADJ 120: Introduction to Courts

Course Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- **Understand the operation of federal and state courts**
- **Comprehend the role of the Courtroom Work Group**
- **Acquire a basic understanding of criminal procedure**
- **Know the principles of plea bargaining**
- **Describe characteristics of the typical offender**
- **Explain the role of victims and witnesses**
- **Examine the collection of evidence**
- **Discuss various rationales for punishment and sentencing**
- **Differentiate between juvenile and adult courts**

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ADJ 120: Introduction to Courts

Required Materials:

1. Internet access
2. Blackboard
3. Textbook

Textbook:

America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System, 11th edition

Author: David W. Neubauer

ISBN# 978-128-5062235

The following supplementary materials are available: None

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ADJ 120: Introduction to Courts

Topical Description:

- Crime and controversy
- Federal Courts
- State Courts
- Prosecutors
- Defense Attorneys
- Judges
- Defendants and Victims
- Court process
- Disclosing and suppressing evidence
- Plea negotiations
- Trials and Juries
- Sentencing Options
- Appellate Courts
- Lower Courts
- Juvenile Courts

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