

# Virginia Western Community College

## ADJ 120

### Introduction to Courts

#### **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**

**Lab/Clinical/Internship Hours: 0**

#### **Required Materials**

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

#### **Textbook:**

America's Courts and the Criminal Justice System, 11th edition Author: David W. Neubauer  
ISBN# 978-128-5062235

#### **Other Required Materials:**

None

#### **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

**Topical Description**

1	Crime and Controversy
2	Federal Courts
3	State Courts
4	Prosecutors
5	Defense Attorneys
6	Judges
7	Defendants and Victims
8	Court process
9	Disclosing and suppressing evidence
10	Plea negotiations
11	Trials and Juries
12	Sentencing Options
13	Appellate Courts
14	Lower Courts
15	Juvenile Courts

**Notes to Instructors**