ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE
SYLLABUS

AJS 210 THE COURT FUNCTION
Credit Hours: 3 Lec 3

PREREQUISITE: *None*
NOTE: AJS 101 recommended

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Examines the structure, function and organization of American criminal and civil courts as well as specialized courts within the criminal justice system. Judicial procedures and the roles of legal actors including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and court employees are studied. The rights of defendants and victims, the role of plea bargaining, the operation of juries, trials and sentencing and contemporary controversial legal issues are examined.

1. COURSE GOAL
1.1 Know the structure and function of the American Court system.
1.2 Know the roles of legal actors.
1.3 Know contemporary legal issues.

2. OUTCOMES
Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:
2.1 describe the structure of the federal and Arizona court system.
2.2 describe the present-day function of the U.S. Supreme Court.
2.3 discuss the types of cases generally considered by the U.S. Supreme Court.
2.4 describe two general types of state court structures.
2.5 differentiate trial and appellate function.
2.6 differentiate jurisdiction and venue.
2.7 determine the appropriate jurisdiction for a criminal case by analyzing facts.
2.8 define and identify at least three sources of rights and legal protections.
2.9 distinguish between federal and state jurisdiction.
2.10 explain the purpose and function of the following pre-trial proceedings: filing of a complaint, arrest, booking, initial appearance, preliminary hearing, grand jury indictment, arraignment, omnibus hearing, and pre-trial conference.
2.11 identify types of pleas.
2.12 define plea bargain and identify reasons for its usage.
2.13 identify arguments for and criticisms against plea bargaining.
2.14 list and explain procedures used during trial including jury selection, opening statements, presentation of case-in-chiefs by prosecution and defense.
2.15 differentiate a bench trial and jury trial.
2.16 identify the roles and responsibilities of legal actors including judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.
2.17 discuss the role of assigned counsel including the public defender and court appointed attorneys.
2.18 discuss the role and operation of the trial jury.
2.19 define *voir dire* and explain the use of preemptory challenges and challenges for cause.
2.20 identify and discuss post-trial proceedings including sentencing and appeals.
2.21 list and explain the legal rights of a defendant during trial.
2.22 list and explain the legal rights of a victim during a defendant's trial and sentencing.
2.23 discuss the creation and structure of specialized criminal courts including drug and gun-courts.
2.24 identify and discuss at least three controversial legal issues dealing with the courts in the criminal justice system.

3. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION
The specific methods of instruction will vary but will be designed to meet the course's stated objectives.

4. LEARNING ACTIVITIES
The specific learning activities will vary but will be designed to meet the course's stated objectives.

5. EVALUATIONS
5.1 Grade will be earned by an assortment of learning activities, exams, assignments, and participation.
5.2 Please see the class schedule and assignment sheet for more information.

6. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
6.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
6.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
6.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
6.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized "crib notes", plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor's signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC's Student Code of Conduct.
6.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
6.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for "No Show" reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.
Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a "No Show" (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of "NS" on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.
For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
- Submitting an academic assignment
- Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
- Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
- Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
- Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course