

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: PLS 64

Title: THE AMERICAN JURY SYSTEM

Full Title: The American Jury System

Last Reviewed: 8/28/2017

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	1.00	Lecture Scheduled	1.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	17.50
Minimum	1.00	Lab Scheduled	0	2	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	1.00		Contact Total	17.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 35.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 52.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade Only

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**  
This course will provide an overview of the evolution and current functions of the adversarial system that has evolved in the U.S. as a means of settling disputes. The grand jury, the criminal petit jury, and the civil petit jury will be explored.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100 and Course Completion or Concurrent Enrollment in PLS 50

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: This course will provide an overview of the evolution and current functions of the adversarial system that has evolved in the U.S. as a means of settling disputes. The grand jury, the criminal petit jury, and the civil petit jury will be explored. (Grade Only)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:  
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100 and Course Completion or Concurrent

Enrollment in PLS 50  
Limits on Enrollment:  
Transfer Credit: CSU;  
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

**ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	Effective:	Inactive:
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective: Summer 2011	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b>		Effective:	Inactive:

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

**COURSE CONTENT**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Explain the role juries play in the American criminal and civil systems.
2. Identify criteria commonly utilized in the jury selection process.
3. Draft jury questions to prepare juror questionnaire.

**Objectives:**

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

1. Locate and report jury verdicts in anticipation of trial.
2. Create and utilize a jury chart.
3. Perform effectively and professionally with jury selection experts and counsel in the jury selection process.
4. Provide ongoing reports during trial and post-trial based on observation.

**Topics and Scope:**

I. Course Overview and Vocabulary

II. History

- A. Laws of William the Conqueror
- B. Assize of Clarendon
- C. Magna Carta
- D. Declaration of Independence
- E. U.S. Constitution
  1. Bill of Rights
  2. 14th Amendment

III. Right to a Jury Trial

- A. Qualifications and criteria
- B. Duncan v. Louisiana

- IV. Grand Juries
  - A. Criminal
  - B. Civil
- V. Petit Jury
  - A. Voir Dire/Jury Selection
    - 1. Drafting jury questionnaires
    - 2. Submission of jury questions
    - 3. Mock juries
    - 4. Jury consultants
    - 5. Challenges
  - B. Death-Qualified Jury
  - C. Jury Instructions
  - D. Jury Deliberations
  - E. Jury Verdicts - Jury nullification
  - F. Juror Misconduct
  - G. Juror Interviews
  - H. The Jury Chart
  - I. Jury Observation During Trial
  - J. Post-Trial Interviews
- VI. Selected Notorious Trials
- VII. The Vanishing Jury Trial
  - A. Alternative Dispute Resolution
  - B. Bench Trials
  - C. Limitations on Access

**Assignment:**

1. Research and analyze jury verdicts for assigned cases and report findings in writing and orally
2. Draft sample jury questions based on fact pattern presented
3. Create a jury chart
4. Engage with jury selection experts and counsel in the jury selection process.
5. Provide ongoing reports during trial and post-trial based on observation.
6. Participate in group work and class discussions
7. Quizzes (1-2)

**Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Written report on jury verdicts

Writing  
20 - 30%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Analysis of jury verdicts, formulate jury questions and jury selection process, jury chart

Problem solving  
30 - 50%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes

Exams  
15 - 20%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Participation and group work

Other Category  
15 - 20%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

The American Jury System. Jonakait, Randolph. Yale University Press. 2016  
Instructor Prepared Materials