Course Information

An integral part of the criminal justice system is the court system. This section will discuss various aspects of the court system, explaining what criminal procedure is and the different stages within the justice process. Students will have a better understanding of the criminal justice system and the court system.

Criminal and Civil Cases
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/criminal-and-civil-cases

Jeffrey Mason discusses the differences between criminal and civil cases. Highlights include acquittals and the burdens of proof.

Craig Hemmens Discusses Criminal Procedure
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/craig-hemmens-discusses-criminal-procedure

Professor Craig Hemmens describes the field of criminal procedure and research in the field. He discusses the impact of Supreme Court decisions on law enforcement, and he highlights his research on warrantless searches of people on probation or parole.

Jury Selection Process
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/jury-selection-process

Professor Nancy Marion describes the jury selection process and the impact jury composition can have on a case. Gender, religion, background, employment, and income level can all affect the way jurors interpret evidence.

Plea Bargaining
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/plea-bargaining

Professor Mario Cano describes his research on prison sentences and plea bargains. His specific focus is on substantial assistance downward departures, which are sentencing discounts given at the discretion of federal prosecutors.

Judges and Bias
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/judges-and-bias

Professor Kenneth Peak discusses bias in the court system. He explains that many attorneys are familiar with judges' biases and how this affects the justice system.

Suggested Courses or Topics

These videos can be used in a variety of criminology courses, which might include:

- policing,
- survey of crime and justice,
- criminal justice systems, or
- entry-level criminology.

Classroom Clips

- Criminal and Civil Cases: This clip explains the difference between criminal and civil cases. Clip 0:02 – 1:54.
- Craig Hemmens Discusses Criminal Procedure
  - This clip defines criminal procedure. Clip 0:08 – 0:50.
  - This clip discusses how criminal procedure has changed as a result of Supreme Court decisions. Clip 4:10 – 5:32.
- Jury Selection Process: This clip explains how juries are chosen and what effect jury selection has on case outcomes. Clip 0:08 – 1:13.
- Plea Bargaining: This clip discusses how prosecutors provide sentencing discounts in the plea-bargaining system. Clip 0:10 – 4:56.
- Judges and Bias: This clip discusses how judges are biased and how these biases affect the justice system. Clip 0:05 – 3:00.

Research Assignment

Dr. Marion discusses jury selection (Clip 0:08 – 1:13). Find four studies that examine how juries and jury characteristics...
affect outcomes of cases. At least one of these studies should examine jury selection with regard to death penalty cases. Discuss how much juries impact cases and who is most affected by jury biases.

**Classroom Discussion**

As the Supreme Court becomes more conservative, what changes to criminal procedure will likely occur? How will these changes trickle down to other parts of the justice system? Who is most likely impacted by a conservative Supreme Court?