



## Introduction to Criminal Justice

3 Credit Hours

LAW 101-1  
Fall 2021

**Faculty:** Robert Yazzie

**E-mail:** ryazzie@navajotech.edu

**Office:** Law Building (If face-to-face)

**Office Phone:** 505-870-2907

**Office Hours:** Email or call to set up an appointment.

**Modality:** Online virtual

**Class Location:** Law Building

**Class Meeting Times:** 10:30 a.m.- 12:00pm Monday and Wednesday.

**Required Materials:** (These can be found on [www.navajocourts.org](http://www.navajocourts.org))

- ❖ Fundamental Laws of the Dine' entitled *Dine' Bi Beennahaz'aanii Biste Sili* enacted by the Navajo Nation Council, 1 N.N.C. §201-206 see (Resolution CN-69-02) on Nov. 8, 2002.
- ❖ Title 7 of Navajo Nation Code. 7 N.N.C. Courts and Procedure §101 – 1119.
- ❖ Copies of statutes, court cases and handouts (A Programmed Introduction to the Study of Law Part I: Case Skills by Charles D. Kelso) will be provided by instructor.
- ❖ Current Affairs: Students are **expected** to keep updated on current law developments within the society in terms of reading one newspaper, law periodical or internet site per week (navajocourts.org, indianz.com, Navajo Times, etc.)

### Textbook:

1.) *LAW 101 Everything You Need to Know about American Law* by Jay M. Feinman. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. ISBN-13: 978-0190866327

2.) *Navajo Courts and Navajo Common Law – A Traditional of Tribal Self-Governance* by Raymond D. Austin (ISBN: 978-0195395136)

**Tools:** Students are encouraged to use a “flash drive” and obtain a 3-ring binder.

**Lab Fee:** None



**Mission Statement**

Navajo Technical University’s mission is to provide college readiness programs, certificates, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees. Students, faculty, and staff will provide value to the Diné community through research, community engagement, service learning, and activities designed to foster cultural and environmental preservation and sustainable economic development. The University is committed to a high quality, student-oriented, hands-on-learning environment based on the Diné cultural principles: *Nitsáhákees, Nahátá, Íina, Siihasin.*

**Course Description:**

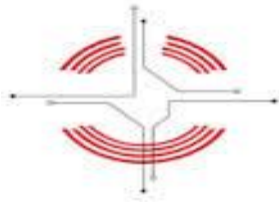
Students will receive a general overview of the tribal, state and federal legal systems and how these laws affect the lives of Indian people, as well as become familiar with the commonly used legal terminology in the civil and criminal proceedings. Students will be introduced to critical thinking in briefing cases and in taking law exams using the IRAC method (Issue, Rule, Analysis and Conclusion.) and the NNIS method of Nishakis, Nahata, Iina, and Sihasin. Students will also be introduced to the origin of the Diné natural, traditional, customary, and common laws and how they can apply these laws to resolve disputes.

**Course Objectives**

After successfully completing this course the students will be able to:

1. Understand the commonly used legal terminology and how it is related and interrelated to court procedures.
2. Understand legal terminology and its application to civil and criminal procedural process -- from client interview to filing a complaint, to entry of final judgment through the appellant process.
3. Understand differences and similarities among tribal, state and federal court proceedings.
4. Gain an understanding of the theory and application of the foundational laws of the Dine’ where applicable in the Anglo/Western style Navajo Nation courts.

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE MEASUREMENTS
Correctly recognize and use a basic set of the vocabulary and terminology used in the study of law	Vocabulary tests
Recognize, understand, discuss and analyze basic, procedural steps in a civil and criminal cases, and discuss the relationship between procedure and due process.	Assignments, tests, final exam
Look up statutes and cases online, brief cases using IRAC method, write papers in a	Assignments



coherent fashion	
------------------	--

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<p><i>What is Law?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Origin (Navajo and Anglo) Legal system</li> <li>- Philosophy/ History of law</li> <li>-Navajo Legal Thinking</li> </ul>	<p>Handout: History and Philosophy of law</p> <p>Title 2 NNC</p>
<p><i>State, Federal and Tribal Courts</i>- Their differences and similarities</p>	<p>FAQ about Indian Law- Are Tribal Courts Different than State and Federal Courts?</p>
<p><i>History of Navajo Nation Court system</i></p> <p>Tribal Sovereignty and Jurisdiction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Discuss Title 7 of the Navajo Nation Code</li> <li>* 7 N.N.C. Courts and Procedure §101 – 1119.</li> <li>* Read Raymond Austin’s book- Navajo Common Law pg. 1-49</li> </ul>
<p><i>Going back to the Traditional Navajo Fundamental Values</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Discuss the beginning with Navajo Philosophy</li> <li>-Traditional Navajo Legal terminology</li> </ul>	<p>Read Raymond Austin’s Book</p> <p>Chapter 3</p> <p>Hozhoo, peace and Harmony</p> <p>Chapter 4</p> <p>Ke’ (Kindship Unity through Positive Values)</p>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
<p><i>Legal Terminology</i> of Civil and Criminal Process</p>	<p>Handouts of Legal terminology of Civil and Criminal proceedings</p>
<p><i>Types of Law:</i></p> <p>Torts, Contract, Family/ Domestic Relations, Indian Civil Rights Act, Childrens’ Code, Probate, and Indian Child Welfare Act, etc..</p> <p>*See official listing of law subjects covered on the Navajo Nation Bar Exam</p>	<p>Research for each type of law and describe what they mean. ie... What is Tort?, What is a Contract?, etc.</p> <p>*Handout of bar exam subjects listing</p>
<p><i>Discussions</i></p> <p>Due Process, and Equal Protection of the law</p>	<p>Class discussion and participation</p>



<i>Thinking like a Lawyer/ Analyzing legal issues</i> IRAC Method, NNIS Method,	Writing required
<b>Final Exam</b>	

**Grading Plan:**

- Homework
- Class Participation
- Project(s)
- Quizzes:
- Midterm
- Final Exam
- Portolio

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80% - 89%
- C = 70% - 79%
- D = 60-69% - 69%
- F = 59 or less

**Grading Policy**

Each student must do his or her own work. Cheating and Plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Cheating includes but is not limited to: plagiarism, submission of work that is not the student's own, submission or use of falsified data, unauthorized access to exam or assignment, use of unauthorized material during an exam, supplying or communicating unauthorized information for an assignment or exam.

**Participation**

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class activities. Points will be given to students who actively participate in all class activities including, field trips, laboratories, and all other classroom events.

**Cell phone and headphone use**

Please turn cell phones off **before** coming to class including during Zoom class. Cell phone courtesy is essential to quality classroom learning. Headphones must be removed before coming to class.



## **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to regularly attend all classes for which they are registered. A percentage of the student's grade will be based on class attendance and participation. Absence from class, regardless of the reason, does not relieve the student of his/her responsibility to complete all course work by the required deadlines. Furthermore, it is the student's responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and any other information covered when absent from class and to arrange to make up any in-class assignments or tests if permitted by the instructor. Incomplete or missing assignments will necessarily affect the student's grades. Instructor will report excessive and/or unexplained absences to the academic counselor for investigation and potential intervention. **Instructor may drop students from the class after 3 absences unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor to make up work and the instructor deems any excuse acceptable.**

## **Study Time Outside of Class for Face-to Face Courses**

For every credit hour in class, a student is expected to spend two hours outside studying course materials.

## **Study Time for Hybrid or Blended Courses**

For a hybrid or blended course of one credit hour, a student is expected to spend three hours per week studying course materials.

## **Study Time for Online Courses**

For online course of one credit hour, a student is expected to spend four hours per week studying course materials.

## **Academic Integrity**

Integrity (honesty) is expected of every student in all academic work. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be the student's own. Students who engage in academic dishonesty diminish their education and bring discredit to the college community. Avoid situations likely to compromise academic integrity such as: cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism; modifying academic work to obtain additional credit in the same class unless approved in advance by the instructor, failure to observe rules of academic integrity established by the instructor. The use of another person's ideas or work claimed as your own without acknowledging the original source is known as plagiarism and is prohibited.

## **Diné Philosophy of Education**

The Diné Philosophy of Education (DPE) is incorporated into every class for students to become aware of and to understand the significance of the four Diné philosophical elements,



including its affiliation with the four directions, four sacred mountains, the four set of thought processes and so forth: Nitsáhákees, Nahát'á, Íina and Sih Hasin which are essential and relevant to self-identity, respect and wisdom to achieve career goals successfully.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Navajo Technical College is committed to serving all students in a non-discriminatory and accommodating manner. Any student who feels he or she may need special accommodations should contact the Accommodations Office (<http://www.navajotech.edu/student-services#accommodations-services>) in accordance with university's Disabilities Accommodations Policy (see [http://www.navajotech.tech.edu/images/about/policiesD0cs/Disability Exhibit-A 6-26-2018.pdf](http://www.navajotech.tech.edu/images/about/policiesD0cs/Disability%20Exhibit-A%206-26-2018.pdf)).

### **Email Address:**

Students are required to use NTU's email address as a formal mode of communication.

**Final Exam Date:** May 12, 2022.