

ADMJ-125: INTRODUCTION TO EVIDENCE

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

12/05/2025

AS Approval

12/11/2025

BOT Approval

12/18/2025

COCI Approval

02/19/2026

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Administration of Justice (Any Degree and Professional Experience)	

Subject Code

ADMJ - Administration of Justice

Course Number

125

Department

Administration of Justice

Division

Administration of Justice (ADMJ)

Full Course Title

Introduction to Evidence

Short Title

Introduction to Evidence

CB03 TOP Code

2105.00 - *Administration of Justice

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

C - Clearly Occupational

Rationale

Periodic course update, textbook update, revision of course learning outcomes.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

The origin, development, philosophy and constitutional basis of legal evidence; constitutional and procedural considerations affecting arrest and search and seizure; kinds and degrees of evidence, rules, and case studies. This course covers categories of evidence as well as legal rules governing its admission or exclusion in the criminal process.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Permanent
Entirely Online	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze principles and applications of statutory and Constitutional law, particularly the requirements adhered to by law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
2. Produce written communications that meet the standards for transfer and a criminal justice system professional.
3. Examine critically contemporary problems and issues within criminal justice.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate conceptual knowledge of the key rules of evidence, legal definitions and concepts of evidentiary law as measured through objective tests and written/film scenarios to the satisfaction of the instructor.

2. Identify, differentiate, and evaluate various kinds of evidence and determine if it is relevant and competent as to its admissibility in court.
3. Establish the link between legally admissible evidence and a criminal violation.
4. Evaluate case law decisions concerning evidentiary facts, demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate and analyze these facts, and apply the appropriate legal rules.

Course Content

1. Introduction
 - a. What is evidence?
 - b. What are 'Rules of Evidence'?
 - c. Burden of proof
 - d. Sources of evidence law
 - e. Relevant and competent requirements
 - f. Chain of custody
2. Legal Research, Evidence
 - a. Impact of case law
 - b. Major case review - evidentiary matters
 - c. How legal research is conducted
 - d. Tests for Trustworthiness
3. Types of Evidence
 - a. Definitions
 - b. Testimonial evidence
 - c. Real or physical evidence
 - d. Documentary evidence
4. Special kinds of evidence
 - a. Presumptions
 - b. Judicial notice
 - c. Inferences
5. Witnesses - Competency
 - a. Define
 - b. Ability to narrate
 - c. Define competency
 - d. Grounds for qualification and disqualification of witnesses
 - e. Voir dire to establish competency
6. Witnesses (continued)
 - a. Impeachment of witness
 - b. Corroboration
 - c. Past recollection recorded
 - d. Refresh memory
 - e. Rehabilitation
7. Opinion Rule
 - a. Basis for rule
 - b. Admissible lay opinion
 - c. Expert opinion
8. Documentary Evidence
 - a. Basis for rule
 - b. Best evidence rule
 - c. Secondary evidence
 - d. Parole evidence rule
9. Photographic Evidence
 - a. Admissibility of photographs
 - b. Posed photographs
 - c. Gruesome photographs
 - d. Nude photographs
 - e. Other considerations
10. Circumstantial Evidence
 - a. Circumstantial evidence of intent
 - b. Circumstantial evidence of guilt
11. Hearsay
 - a. Definition
 - b. Hearsay rule
 - c. Exceptions to hearsay rule
12. Privileged Communications
 - a. Basis for privileges

- b. Specific privileges
- 13. Search and Seizure as Applied to Evidentiary Matters
 - a. History and development of case law
 - b. The exclusionary rule
 - c. Definitions
 - d. Search warrants
 - e. Search incident to arrest
 - f. Plain view
 - g. Consent search
 - h. Law of detention
 - i. Frisk
 - j. Search of specific areas
 - k. Administrative searches
 - l. Forcible seizure of evidence
 - m. Other exceptions to the warrant requirement
- 14. Self-Incrimination
 - a. Scope of privilege
 - b. Granting immunity
 - c. Non-testimonial compulsion
 - d. Miranda warnings
 - e. Case law affecting custodial interrogation
- 15. Identification Procedures
 - a. Photographic Array
 - b. In person "show up"
 - c. In person "line up"
- 16. Discovery
 - a. What is the right of discovery
 - b. Reporting and discovery procedures
 - c. Duty to preserve evidence
 - d. Grand jury
 - e. Preliminary hearing as discovery tool
 - f. Evidence unavailable for discovery
- 17. Contemporary Issues Related to Evidence in the Criminal Justice System
 - a. Electronic data
 - b. Use of public surveillance data in prosecutions
 - c. Landmark case law decisions
- 18. Final Examination

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lecture	1. An interactive lecture on the different types of evidence admissible at a criminal trial. 2. An interactive lecture on the application of the 4th Amendment in protecting citizens from an illegal search and the consequences applicable to a criminal trial.
Other	1. A small group research project involving a scenario provided by the instructor about the presentation of evidence at a criminal trial. 2. An oral presentation debriefing and summarizing a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court related to criminal evidence.

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	Field trips will be offered in the same way as a face-to-face class.
Discussion	Discussions will be facilitated using the discussion board in Canvas.
Group Work	Projects will be facilitated by using the assignment option in Canvas. Oral presentation will be facilitated using the Canvas video recorder, YouTube, or similar technology.
Lecture	Lectures will be delivered using audio recordings, video recordings, or supplemental reading.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation**Methods of Evaluation**

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	1. A mid-term exam with multiple-choice and true-false questions based on assigned reading from the textbook. 2. A final exam with short essay questions about case law decisions related to evidence. 3. Multiple-choice or true-false questions about a scenario involving use of evidence at a criminal trial.
Essays/Papers	1. A research paper on a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court regarding application of the 4th Amendment by police. 2. A paper analyzing the application of the 4th Amendment to the search and seizure of electronic data.
Other	Objective tests: "According to the United States supreme Court, the test for voluntariness is? Case Review: "After reviewing the facts from The State of California v Jack Ripper, answer the following issues of evidence: 1. Was there sufficient probable cause for the initial detention? 2. Was there sufficient probable cause to the search of the vehicle? 3. Were the statements taken in compliance with the incriminating statements and hearsay rules? 4. Was the Voir Dire conducted in accordance with the rules of evidence? 5. Was the cause of death legally determined? 6. Was the physical evidence collected in a competent manner? 7. Was the chain of custody maintained? Was all of the evidence presented relevant? Explain? 8. Was there an example of judicial notice? 9. Was there any examples of a rebuttable presumption? 10. Were there any stipulations made by either the prosecution or defense? Research Paper: Select a rule of evidence and describe how it was used by the prosecution/defense in order to obtain a conviction/mistrial/acquittal in an actual criminal case.

Assignments**Reading Assignments**

1. Read chapter 3 and complete the critical thinking exercises prior to the lecture.
2. Read and analyze the assigned case and answer the attached questions.

Writing Assignments

1. Textbooks - complete the critical thinking exercises at the end of each chapter.

2. Handout materials - based upon real or hypothetical cases the student will analyze and determine the answers to specific questions about evidence.

3. One term paper - a research paper will require the student to argue for or against the elimination of one class of relationships which is currently protected as part of the privileged communications concept of evidence.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Garland & Stuckey

Title

Criminal Evidence

Edition/Version

8th

Publisher

McGraw-Hill

Year

2020

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

Needs DEI statement.

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000337248

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No