



## ADMJ 125 - Introduction to Evidence Course Outline

Approval Date: 12/09/2021

Effective Date: 08/12/2022

### SECTION A

**Unique ID Number** CCC000337248

**Discipline(s)** Administration of Justice

**Division** Criminal Justice Training

**Subject Area** Administration of Justice

**Subject Code** ADMJ

**Course Number** 125

**Course Title** Introduction to Evidence

**TOP Code/SAM Code** 2105.00 - Criminal Justice/Police Science\* / C - Occupational

**Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum** Periodic course update, textbook update, revision of course learning outcomes.

**Units** 3

**Cross List** N/A

**Typical Course Weeks** 18

**Total Instructional Hours**

#### Contact Hours

**Lecture** 54.00

**Lab** 0.00

**Activity** 0.00

**Work Experience** 0.00

**Outside of Class Hours** 108.00

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**Total Contact Hours** 54

**Total Student Hours** 162

**Open Entry/Open Exit** No

**Maximum Enrollment** 35

**Grading Option** Letter Grade or P/NP

**Distance Education Mode of Instruction** On-Campus  
Hybrid  
Entirely Online

### SECTION B

**General Education Information:**

### SECTION C

**Course Description**

**Repeatability** May be repeated 0 times

**Catalog 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.

**Schedule Description**

## SECTION D

### Condition on Enrollment

1a. **Prerequisite(s):** *None*

1b. **Corequisite(s):** *None*

### 1c. Recommended

- ENGL 90 with a minimum grade of C or better

1d. **Limitation on Enrollment:** *None*

## SECTION E

### Course Outline Information

#### 1. Student Learning Outcomes:

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

#### 2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

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

- Introduction
  - What is evidence?
  - What are 'Rules of Evidence'?
  - Burden of proof
  - Sources of evidence law
  - Relevant and competent requirements
  - Chain of custody
- Legal Research, Evidence
  - Impact of case law
  - Major case review - evidentiary matters
  - How legal research is conducted
  - Tests for Trustworthiness
- Types of Evidence
  - Definitions
  - Testimonial evidence

- c. Real or physical evidence
  - d. Documentary evidence
- D. Special kinds of evidence
  - a. Presumptions
  - b. Judicial notice
  - c. Inferences
- E. 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
- F. Witnesses (continued)
  - a. Impeachment of witness
  - b. Corroboration
  - c. Past recollection recorded
  - d. Refresh memory
  - e. Rehabilitation
- G. Opinion Rule
  - a. Basis for rule
  - b. Admissible lay opinion
  - c. Expert opinion
- H. Documentary Evidence
  - a. Basis for rule
  - b. Best evidence rule
  - c. Secondary evidence
  - d. Parole evidence rule
- I. Photographic Evidence
  - a. Admissibility of photographs
  - b. Posed photographs
  - c. Gruesome photographs
  - d. Nude photographs
  - e. Other considerations
- J. Circumstantial Evidence
  - a. Circumstantial evidence of intent
  - b. Circumstantial evidence of guilt
- K. Hearsay
  - a. Definition
  - b. Hearsay rule
  - c. Exceptions to hearsay rule
- L. Privileged Communications
  - a. Basis for privileges
  - b. Specific privileges
- M. 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
- N. Self-Incrimination
  - a. Scope of privilege
  - b. Granting immunity
  - c. Non-testimonial compulsion
  - d. Miranda warnings
  - e. Case law affecting custodial interrogation\
- O. Identification Procedures
  - a. Photographic Array
  - b. In person "show up"
  - c. In person "line up"
- P. 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
- Q. 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
- R. Final Examination
- S.

#### 4. Methods of Instruction:

**Lecture:** For example: 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.

**Projects:** For example, 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:** Activity, Discussion, Group Work, Lecture

**Explain how the online adaptation of the methods of instruction aligns with the course**

**outcomes:** Discussions will be facilitated using the discussion board in Canvas. Lectures will be delivered using audio recordings, video recordings, or supplemental reading. 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. Field trips will be offered in the same way as a face-to-face class.

**4. Methods of Evaluation:** Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

#### Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- For example: 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.

Papers -- For example: 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.

Final Exam -- For example: 1. A series of short essay questions about case law decisions related to evidence. 2. Multiple-choice or true-false questions about a scenario involving use of evidence at a criminal trial.

Additional assessment information:

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.

Letter Grade or P/NP

**5. Assignments:** State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. 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.

B. Writing Assignments

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

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

-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.

C. Other Assignments

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**6. Required Materials**

**A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.**

Book #1:

Author: Garland & Stuckey

Title: Criminal Evidence

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

Date of Publication: 2020

Edition: 8th

**B. Other required materials/supplies.**

- Access to the California Rules of Evidence which can be accessed online, or in the library.
- Handouts provided by the instructor.