

Imperial Valley College

Administration of Justice

Course Syllabus

COURSE NO.
AJ 104 (CRN 10070)

COURSE TITLE
Legal Aspects of Evidence

INSTRUCTOR
Glenn Granish - Room 211
Office Phone: (760) 355-6280

TEXTBOOKS
California Criminal Evidence Guide:
A Handbook for the Criminal Justice Student,
Raymond Hill, Santa Rosa Junior College

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TERM
Fall 2013

UNITS
3

CLASS TIMES
Monday 8:35am - 11:45am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the origin, development, philosophy, and constitutional basis for evidence; constitutional and procedural considerations affecting arrest, search and seizure, kinds and degrees of evidence, and rules governing admissibility; judicial decisions interpreting individual rights and case studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the historical development and the constitutionality of the rules of evidence.
2. Explain the procedural rules and constitutionality of arrest, search and seizures.
3. Describe the admissibility and categories of privileged communication.
4. Recognize the different requirements and responsibility of lay and expert witnesses.
5. Define hearsay, the rules of admissibility, and the exceptions to the Hearsay Rule.
6. Describe the rules and procedures used to determine the admissibility of confessions and admissions.
7. Identify different kinds of documentary evidence and the rules relating to admissibility.
8. Explain the preservation and custody of physical and scientific evidence.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Describe the historical development and the constitutionality of the rules of evidence and how it ties into the criminal justice system.
2. Explain and identify the procedural rules and constitutionality for arrest, search and seizure.
3. Define hearsay, rules of admissibility, and understand the exceptions to the Hearsay Rule.
4. Critique and argue the different requirements and responsibilities of law and expert witnesses and how it differentiates from other legal systems in the world.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

Total Points:	675 points
Tests: Five tests at 50 points each =	250 Points
Term Paper: (Topic Approved by Instructor) =	75 Points
Final Exam:	200 Points
Ride Along:	50 Points
Class attendance/participation in discussions, or activities =	100 Points
*Bonus (Approved by Instructor) =	*up to 50 Points

A = 675-610 B = 609-540 C = 539-475 D = 474-405 F = 404-0

PLEASE NOTE:

Assignments are due on the date stated on the syllabus. Late assignments are subject to reduction of points. Make every effort to turn in assignments on time or you may receive a zero for that assignment.

TESTS/EXAMS:

There are a total of five (5) tests and one (1) comprehensive Final Examination in this course. Each of these tests will consist of a twenty-five (25) question test worth a total of fifty (50) points. Each test will have a time limit of 30 minutes, which means that class starts at 8:35 am, class attendance is taken, then the test is handed out to the students. You will have 30 minutes, no longer. If you show up late to class, you will have what time is left to complete the test. There will be NO makeup test given. Failure to take an exam will result in a zero for that exam unless prior approval is given by the instructor. Bring a No. 2 Pencil and Scantron form to class on exam days for the test. **I DO NOT supply a Scantron or a Pencil for any exam.**

AS THERE IS NO RETAKES IN REAL LIFE - THERE WILL BE “NO MAKE UP EXAMS” GIVEN FOR THIS COURSE!

You must communicate to your instructor any problems that you are having with the course or anything affecting you in the performance of the course. That means, if you **can not** attend class to take the exams, you will communicate that to the instructor and why with paperwork of why you could not be in class to take the exam. (Doctor's appointment, Jury Duty, Emergency Room, or Funeral).

ATTENDANCE:

One of the institutional learning outcomes at IVC is personal responsibility. You will be expected to demonstrate personal responsibility by attending class, showing up on time, and not leaving early. You will be allowed two absences from class before the drop deadline. Do not assume you will be dropped for non-attendance. Missing more than half a class session will count as a full absence. *(It remains your responsibility to drop yourself from all courses that you no longer attend, or you risk getting a failing grade on your transcript.)*

Another aspect of this course is a tour of Centinela State Prison. Attendance is a requirement of the class, as the tour will be on a regular class session day.

Refer to pages 23 – 24 of your General Catalog for “ATTENDANCE AND AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS”; **YOU** are RESPONSIBLE!

ACADEMIC ETHICS:

Cheating is defined as copying answers from another student on an exam or assignment, allowing another student to copy answers from you, turning in work as your own that someone else did for you, working with another student on an assignment with the instructor's express consent, or turning in a writing assignment that uses another's words or ideas without crediting the source of the words or ideas.

PLAGIRISM will not be tolerated!

If a student uses the words or ideas of another person without giving that person credit, the student is committing an act of plagiarism.

CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

Anyone caught cheating will get a zero for the assignment or exam and may be dropped from the class with the grade of **"F"**.

PARTICIPATION: Every student is expected to participate in class discussions each week. This includes punctuality, contributions, personal opinions, group efforts if assigned and discussion of issues relating to the current assignment of the class.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Any conduct that disrupts the learning process cannot be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such conduct will be asked to leave the classroom. Talking, whispering, loud yawning, and **CELL PHONES RINGING DURING CLASS** are examples of disruptive behavior because such actions are disrespectful and distracting to the instructor and to other students. Respect your fellow students and instructors at all times.

Your cell phones:

- Cell phones ringing during class is RUDE, to me as the instructor and the other students in the class.
- Phones WILL BE turned off or placed on vibrate.
- IF your phone rings during class, you'll be asked to immediately give the class a two (2) minute presentation to the entire class, of the instructor's choice.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WHILE IN CLASS!

NOTICE: Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP & S) Office as soon as possible. [SDP&S, Health Sciences Building 2100, Phone: (760) 355-6312]

AJ 104 Legal Aspects of Evidence
(Tuesday/Thursday 4:45 to 6:10 pm)

Class Schedule:

Monday	08/19/13	Introduction / History of Evidence and the Legal Process
Monday	08/26/13	U.S. Constitution and Amendments & Introduction to Evidence (Chapter 1)
Monday	09/02/13	Labor Day –NO CLASS
Monday	09/09/13	<u>Test #1</u> / Guest Speaker
Monday	09/16/13	Ways of Presenting Evidence (Chapter 2), Testimony (Chapter 3)

Monday	09/23/13	<u>Test #2</u> // Guest Speaker
Monday	09/30/13	Writings (Chapter 4) & Material Objects (Chapter 5)
Monday	10/07/13	<u>Test #3</u> // Guest Speaker
Monday	10/14/13	Relevant Evidence (Chapter 6) & Competency & Credibility (Chapter 7)
Monday	10/14/13	<u>Test#4</u> // Guest Speaker
Monday	10/21/13	Burdon of Proof (Chapter 8) Witness Privileges (Chapter 9) & Hearsay Evidence (Chapter 10)
Monday	10/28/13	<u>Test#5</u> // Guest Speaker
Monday	11/04/13	Class Debate (Subjects will be picked and assigned)
Monday	11/11/13	Vetern's Day – NO CLASS
Monday	11/18/13	Prison Tour
Monday	10/25/13	Final Review
Monday	12/02/13	Final Exam. Term Paper Due/Ride Along paperwork due.

**Items are subject to change as needed by the Instructor.