

# Imperial Valley College

## Administration of Justice

### Course Syllabus

**COURSE NO.**

AJ 104 (10072)

**COURSE TITLE**

Legal Aspects of Evidence

**INSTRUCTOR**

J. Myles-Wells - Room 203

Email: [Jamimyles@aol.com](mailto:Jamimyles@aol.com)**TEXTBOOK**

California Criminal Evidence Guide

Raymond Hill

10<sup>th</sup> Edition**TERM**

Fall 2013

**UNITS**

3

**CLASS TIMES**

Monday &amp; Wednesday 3:05 – 4:30 PM

**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 (SLO's)**

Students will be 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 of *arrest* and *search and seizure*.
3. Define hearsay, rules of admissibility, and understand the exceptions to the Hearsay Rule.

**GRADING PROCEDURE:**

Total Points: 700

**Tests:** Seven tests at 50 points each = 350 points

**Term Paper:** (Topic Approved by Instructor) = 100 Points

**Presentation of Term Paper:** Speech of final term paper=50 Points

**Final Exam** = 100 Points

**Class attendance and participation in discussion, group participation or activities** = 100 Points

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

**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 seven (7) 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 3:05 pm, 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 **cannot** 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.)* 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:**

- Having a cell phone ring during class is RUDE, to me, the instructor, and to 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**  
(Monday & Wednesday 3:05-4:30 PM)

**Class Schedule:**

Mon	08/19/13	Introduction/Syllabus
Wed	08/21/13	Chapter 1: Introduction to Evidence
<b>Mon</b>	<b>08/26/13</b>	<b>Test #1 // Guest Speaker or Video</b>
Wed	08/28/13	Chapter 2: Ways of Presenting Evidence
<b>Mon</b>	<b>09/02/13</b>	<b>Labor Day observed (No class)</b>
Wed	09/04/13	Chapter 3: Testimony of Witnesses
<b>Mon</b>	<b>09/09/13</b>	<b>Test #2 // Guest Speaker or Video</b>
Wed	09/11/13	Chapter 4: Writings
Mon	09/16/13	Chapter 5: Material Objects <b>ALL STUDENTS – TURN IN OUTLINES FOR TERM PAPERS</b>
Wed	09/18/13	<b>Test #3 // Guest Speaker or Video</b>
Mon	09/23/13	Chapter 6: Relevancy
Wed	09/25/13	Chapter 7: Competency and Credibility
Mon	09/30/13	Chapter 8: Burden of Proof
<b>Wed</b>	<b>10/02/13</b>	<b>Test#4 // Guest Speaker or Video</b>
Mon	10/07/13	Chapter 9: Witness Privileges
Wed	10/09/13	Cont. Chapter 9: Witness Privileges
Mon	10/14/13	Chapter 10: Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial

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Wed	10/16/13	Cont. Chapter 10: Pretrial Activities and the Criminal Trial
<b>Mon</b>	<b>10/21/13</b>	<b>Test#5 // Guest Speaker or Video</b>
Wed	10/23/13	Chapter 11: The Fourth Amendment-Search and Seizure
Mon	10/28/13	Cont. Chapter 11: The Fourth Amendment-Search and Seizure
Wed	10/30/13	Cont. Chapter 11: The Fourth Amendment-Search and Seizure
<b>Mon</b>	<b>11/04/13</b>	<b>Test#6 // Guest Speaker or Video</b>
Wed	11/06/13	Chapter 12: Miranda and Confession Law
Mon	11/11/13	Veteran's Day observed (No class)
Wed	11/13/13	Cont. Chapter 12: Miranda and Confession Law
Mon	11/18/13	Chapter 13: Methods of Identification
<b>Wed</b>	<b>11/20/13</b>	<b>Test #7 // Term Paper Speeches</b>
Mon	11/25/13	Term Paper Speeches
Wed	11/27/13	Term Paper Speeches
Mon	12/02/13	Review for Final Exam
Wed	12/04/13	Final Exam

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