

Imperial Valley College

Mr. Steven E. Messick

Fall, 2013
8/19 – 12/07/2013

AJ 104 – Legal Aspects of Evidence – CRN#10073

Tue., 6:30 – 9:40 PM Room #2131

Course Description and Objectives

Through interaction and study, the student will become aware of the origin, development, and philosophy and constitutional basis of evidence; the constitutional and procedural considerations affecting arrest, search and seizure; the kinds and degrees of evidence and rules governing their admissibility; the judicial decisions which interpret individual rights and case studies.

Required Textbook

California Criminal Evidence Guide: A Handbook for the Criminal Justice Student, 10th Edition by Raymond M. Hill; Halleck Creek Publishing, Bodega Bay, CA.

Recommended Preparation for This Course

AJ 100; and, completion of ENGL 099 (Formerly ENGL100) and ENGL089 with a grade of “C” or better.

Instructor Contact Information

Messages to Instructor: Call the Public Safety Office; 1-760-355-6280, or,

Email: stevemessick@hotmail.com

Office Hours: are by appointment only.

Student Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students enrolled in the class. Should it become necessary for you to miss a class, you will still be responsible for all material covered that day, and any assignments made. Please remember that it is also YOUR responsibility to drop the class. If a student simply stops attending class and does not go to the Registration Office to officially withdraw from the course, they will receive an “F” as a Final Grade.

Reading Assignments

The reading assignments for each week are listed in the Tentative Assignment Schedule of this syllabus (see: page four). You are expected to read the material during the week for which it is assigned, (prior to the next scheduled class meeting), and be prepared to discuss that material during the lecture portion of that following class period.

Class Participation

Extra Credit may be awarded for active participation in course activities, group discussions, reading discussions or open discussions throughout the course.

Quizzes / Tests

There may be scheduled and unscheduled quizzes during the semester. It is important that you attend class on test dates, as there **will not** be any make-up on quizzes, absent extenuating circumstances. (See below). These quizzes comprise a part of your overall Final Grade. Quizzes may consist of multiple choices, True/False, fill in the blank or short essay questions and combined are worth a possible of 100 points total. The questions will be based on the required textbook reading, lectures, and multi-media presentations.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)

1. Identify the historical development and the constitutionality of the rules of evidence and how it ties into the criminal justice system. (ILO2, ILO4)
2. Explain and identify the procedural rules and constitutionality for arrest, search and seizure. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)
3. Identify hearsay, rules of admissibility, and the exceptions to the Hearsay Rule. (ILO2, ILO4)

Examinations

During this course, there may be a Mid-Term Exam; a comprehensive Final Exam will cover the entire material in the textbook, lectures and other presentations made during the course. The Final Exam may consist of multiple choices, True/False, fill in the blanks, or short essay questions. Mid-Term and Final exams are each worth a possible of 100 points.

Make Up Exams – Extenuating Circumstances

We understand that students may have a serious illness or personal situation making it impossible to take an Exam when scheduled. If you should need to miss an Exam, you must call or email the Instructor on the day of the Exam to notify that you will be absent. If you do not attempt to notify the Instructor prior to the scheduled exam, you will **not** be allowed to take a makeup Exam. It is your responsibility to schedule a time with the Instructor to take any makeup Exam. Makeup Final Exams are allowed only in extreme and documented circumstances, with the Instructor's prior approval.

Cell Phones / Electronic Devices

Out of consideration for others, please turn your cell phones and/or other Electronic Devices off, or put them in their silent mode. These items distract other students, and the instructor when audible during class session. Repeated infractions of this request may result in a student either being asked to leave the classroom, or being dropped from the course.

Children in the Classroom

Due to IVC policies and state laws, children are not allowed in the classrooms during class sessions under any circumstances.

Cheating / Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious infraction of college policy, and cheating on examinations is equally serious. Students found to be cheating or guilty of plagiarism, will receive an “F” for the assignment or exam and will be dismissed from the class with an “F”. Serious and repeated infractions may result in disciplinary dismissal from the college.

AJ104 Group Research Project – (if required)

(Refer to supplemental paper, if attached)

News Article Information Assignment – (if required)

This is to be a 3-5 minute, oral presentation of a current news article relating to the evidence involved in a pending case. This presentation is worth 100 points and should be from a recognized, published media source. You will orally present a synopsis of the article in your own words and then give your opinion as to how the evidence relates to matter. You will turn in a 1-2 page double-spaced, typed paper summarizing the article, with the article attached. These are the instructor’s copy and will not be returned.

Please use size 12-point font when typing all reports!

Grading / Evaluation Methodology

Your Final Grade is based on scores received on quizzes, extra credits earned, the News Article Presentation Assignment, your Group Research Project (if required), and your Mid-Term and Final Exam grades. The percentage of points accumulated vs. total points possible will result in the following Final Grade being awarded:

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

Accommodations for Students

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor and the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) Office as soon as possible. DSP&S is located in Room 2117, and/or at Ext. 312.

Tentative Assignment Schedule

(May be amended if necessary)

August

20(01)	Introduction/Overview Lecture on Chapt. 1	Assignment: read Chapt. 1-3
27(02)	Lecture on Chapt. 2-3	Assignment: read Chapt. 4-6

September

03(03)	Lecture on Chapt. 4-6 Census	Assignment: read Chapt. 7-8
10(04)	Lecture on Chapt. 7-8 Test 1	Assignment: read Chapt. 9-10 (Covers Chapt. 1 – 8)
17(05)	Lecture on Chapt. 9-10.	Assignment: read Chapt. 11
24(06)	Lecture on Chapt. 11	Assignment: continue Chapt. 11

October

01(07)	Lecture on Chapt. 11 (contd.) Mid-Term Exam	Assignment: continue Chapt. 11 (Covers Chapt. 1 – 10)
08(08)	Lecture on Chapt. 11 (contd.)	Assignment: continue Chapt. 11
15(09)	Lecture on Chapt. 11 (contd.)	Assignment: read Chapt. 12
22(10)	Lecture on Chapt. 12	Assignment: continue Chapt. 12
29(11)	Lecture on Chapt. 12 (contd.)	Assignment: continue Chapt. 12

November

05(12)	Lecture on Chapt. 12 (contd.)	Assignment: read Chapt. 13
09	**DEADLINE DATE TO DROP with “W” (withdrawal)	
12(13)	Lecture on Chapt. 13	Assignment: continue Chapt. 13
19(14)	Lecture on Chapt. 13 (contd.) Test 2	Assignment: read glossary-clipboard (Covers Chapt. 11 – 13)
26(15)	Lecture: Review for Final Exam	

December

03(16)	Final Examination	
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Note: If you have any questions concerning this Tentative Assignment Schedule, please contact the Instructor. Remember, it is your responsibility to have read the Reading Assignment *PRIOR* to that week's class, in order to receive the full benefit from the lecture period on that material.