

Basic Course Information

Semester	Fall 2017	Instructor Name	Kathy Rodriguez
Course Title & #	Legal Aspects of Evidence AJ 104	Email	Kathy.rodriquez@imperial.edu
CRN #	15197	Webpage (optional)	
Room	Online	Office	3207
Class Dates	01/02/18 - 02/02/18	Office Hours	To be scheduled
Class Days	Online	Office Phone #	760-355-6245
Class Times	Online	Office contact if student will be out or emergency	Rhonda Ruiz 760-355-6280
Units	3		

Course Description

This course examines the origin, development, philosophy, and constitutional basis of 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

Student Learning Outcomes

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

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)

Course Objectives

Required language: 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.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required Information—Criminal Evidence by Matthew Lippman. Publisher is Sage

This is your main textbook for the course. The questions contained in the exams will come from this book so read and study it carefully. This textbook takes an in-depth look at the procedures of Criminal evidence.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

We will be using Canvas to conduct this online course :

Logging into Canvas:

- a. Go to <http://imperial.canvas.com> and follow the login instructions to login.
- b. Once logged in, click on the ‘courses’ tab located on the top right of the page.
- c. Click on AJ 104 to enter the course.
- d. Read the course syllabus.
- e. Read the document under Week 1 entitled “Week 1 Online Things to Do.” This outlines exactly what you have to do and by when you have to do it for Week 1.

The online version of this course is not self-paced. There are strict deadlines that need to be met every week. You will be given a list of weekly deliverables that you will be responsible for. You can find these under the appropriate weekly heading (ie. Week 1). Any questions you may have about the course can be posted in the ‘Ask the Instructor’ forum inside Blackboard

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

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Assignment Descriptors	Points
1. Class Assignments	200
2. Discussion Boards	100
3. Tests	400 (4)

4. Final Exam	200 (1)
TOTAL POINTS	900

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = below 60%

PLEASE NOTE: *Assignments are due on the date stated on the syllabus. Late assignments (IF ACCEPTED) are subject to reduction of points. Make every effort to turn in assignments on time or you may receive a zero for that assignment.*

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student’s status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student’s responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as ‘excused’ absences.
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Online Classroom Netiquette

- Use appropriate language. Excessive use of “chat” or “instant messaging” jargon is not acceptable for Blackboard discussions.
- Read existing follow-up postings and don’t repeat what has already been said.
- Inappropriate and/or offensive language, especially comments that might be construed as racist or sexist, are not appropriate and will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- Be careful with humor and sarcasm. One person’s humorous comment can be another person’s boorish or degrading remark.
- Do not use all caps in an online environment. Using all caps is considered SHOUTING.
- Use proper spelling, capitalization, grammar, usage, and punctuation. Utilize the Spell Check feature.
- Remember that there are other human beings reading your postings, so treat everyone with respect. Don’t post anything you wouldn’t be willing to communicate face to face.
- Be sure to include relevant information in the Subject line of emails.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, with the exception of laptops or iPads for note taking purposes only. Cell phones ringing during class and all electronic devices not put away will be held by the instructor until the end of class. Students violating this policy during a class period will have 5 points deducted from their class
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **CANVAS LMS.** Canvas is Imperial Valley College’s main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: [Canvas Student Login](#). The [Canvas Student Guides Site](#) provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information.

Veteran’s Center

The mission of the [IVC Military and Veteran Success Center](#) is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives

- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

Student Equity Program

- The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College’s success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students’ access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.
- The Student Equity Program also houses IVC’s Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.
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Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar	
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Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 Jan 02-Jan 7	Syllabus & Introduction Chapter 1 Introduction Chapter 2 The Criminal Justice Process Chapter 3 Types of Evidence	Assignments, discussion and test
Week 2 Jan 08-Jan 14	Chapter 4 Direct and Circumstantial Evidence Chapter 5 Witnesses Chapter 6 The Opinion Rule and Expert Testimony	Assignments, discussion and test
Week 3 Jan 15-Jan 21	Chapter 7 Crime Scene evidence and Experiments Chapter 8 Documentary Evidence, Models, Maps, and Diagrams Chapter 9 Hearsay	Assignments, discussion and test
Week 4 Jan 22-Jan 28	Chapter 10 Privileges Chapter 11 The Exclusionary Rule Chapter 12 Searches and Seizures and Privacy Chapter 13 Stop and Frisk	Assignments, discussion and test
Week 5 Jan 29-Feb 02	Chapter 14 Probable Causes and Arrests Chapter 15 Searches and Seizures of Property Chapter 16 Interrogations and Confessions Chapter 17 Eyewitness Identifications	Assignments, discussion and Final Exam

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****