



## Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Spring 2026</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>Eddie Silva Madueño</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>AJ 104: Legal Aspects of Evidence</b>	Email:	<b>eddie.madueno@imperial.edu</b>
CRN #:	<b>20360</b>	Webpage (optional):	<b>N/A</b>
Classroom:	<b>3212</b>	Office #:	
Class Dates:	<b>Feb. 17-Jun 12, 2026</b>	Office Hours:	<b>1250-1320</b>
Class Days:	<b>Monday/Wednesday</b>	Office Phone #:	<b>N/A</b>
Class Times:	<b>1120-1245</b>	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	<b>3</b>	Class Format/Modality:	<b>In-Person</b>

## Course Description

Origin, development, and 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. (C-ID: AJ 124) (CSU)

## Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None

## 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. Identify 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. Identify hearsay, rules of admissibility, and the exceptions to the Hearsay Rule.

## 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.



## Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Garland, Norman 2024, Criminal Evidence, 9<sup>th</sup>ed McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 9781264296804

## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Method of evaluation to determine if objectives have been met by students:

Quizzes

In Class Assignments

Criminal Justice Presentation

Written Assignments

Semester Summary

Final Exam

Instructional Methodology: Lecture

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out of class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

## Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grading Procedure: Total Points: 800

Quizzes: 160 points (4 @ 40 points each)

Criminal Justice Presentation: 100 points

Criminal Justice Presentation Comments: 100 points (5 @ 20 points each)

Written Assignments: 100 points (2 @ 50 points each)

In-Class Assignments: 140 points (14 @ 10 points each)

Semester Summary Written Assignment: 100 points

Final Exam: 100 points (50 questions @ 2 points each)

A = 720-800   B = 640-719   C = 560-639   D = 480-559   F = 0-479

*All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the respective due dates.*

*Late assignments will receive no more than 50% of the eligible points.*

*Late is considered the next class meeting after the assignment was due.*

### Exams (260 Points)

Each quiz (4) is twenty questions worth two points per question.

Final Exam (100 Points)

Final exam is 50 questions worth two points per question.



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### [Criminal Justice Presentation \(100 Points\)](#)

You must make a 5 minute oral presentation on a criminal justice topic of your choosing. You may use powerpoint or any other visual aid if you so desire. You must speak in a loud, clear voice and make eye contact with the class. ***No videos allowed.***

#### Grading Criteria:

Time – 1 minute = 10 points	Topic = 10 points
2 minutes = 20 points	Content = 10 points
3 minutes = 30 points	Preparation = 10 points
4 minutes = 40 points	Voice volume = 10 points
5 minutes = 50 points	Eye contact = 10 points

### [Criminal Justice Presentation Comments \(100 Points\)](#)

You must write 5 short sentences/bullet points on each presentation.  
You must use the template provided on Canvas.

#### Grading Criteria

You will earn 20 points per presentation day. You must comment on all presentations made.  
Presentations will be made on five separate dates.

### [Written Assignments \(100 Points\)](#)

You will be given 2 written assignments related to the textbook lectures.  
Due dates are listed in the syllabus.

#### Grading Criteria:

Written assignments are worth 50 points each.  
Instructions for completing this assignment are located in Canvas, Module 0

### [In-Class Assignments \(140 Points\)](#)

You will be given 14 in class assignments at the beginning of classes and it must be completed immediately.

#### Grading Criteria:

In Class Assignments are worth 10 points each.

### [Semester Summary Assignments \(100 Points\)](#)

You will submit a written summary of your experience regarding the course matter.

#### Grading Criteria:

Semester Summary Assignment is worth 100 points.



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## Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification. ***The instructor reserves the right to request an online submission of all assignments in order to check for AI use.***

## Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through *DSPS*, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

## Course Policies

### *Attendance*

A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a 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.

***Students will be dropped on their 4<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.***

***Arriving late to class or leaving before dismissal will count as ½ an absence.***

***Arriving 20+ minutes late to class will count as an absence.***

Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as excused absences.

### *Classroom Policies*

**Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.

**Food and Drink:** 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 by the instructor.

**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.



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**Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.**

### **Other Course Information**

N/A

### **Financial Aid**

**Your Grades Matter!** In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at [finaid@imperial.edu](mailto:finaid@imperial.edu).

### **IVC Student Resources**

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.



## Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Assignments Due
Week 1 February 18	Syllabus & Introduction	
Week 2 February 23-25	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	
Week 3 March 2-4	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	
Week 4 March 9-11	Quiz #1: Online Case Study – What is Evidence	
Week 5 March 16-18	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	
Week 6 March 23-25	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	
Week 7 Mar 30-Apr 1	Quiz #2: Online Criminal Justice Presentation #1	CJP Comments #1
Week 8 April 6-8	Holiday Holiday	
Week 9 April 13-15	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	Written Assignment #1
Week 10 April 20-22	Chapter 11 & 12 Quiz #3: Online	
Week 11 April 27-29	Criminal Justice Presentation #2 Case Study – You Cheated, You Lied	CJP Comments #2
Week 12 May 4-6	Chapter 13 Chapter 14 & 15	
Week 13 May 11-13	Quiz #4: Online Case Study:	
Week 14 May 18-20	Criminal Justice Presentation #3 Criminal Justice Presentation #4	CJP Comments #3 CJP Comments #4 Written Assignment #2
Week 15 May 25-27	Holiday Criminal Justice Presentation #5	CJP Comments #5
Week 16 June 1-3	Case Study: Case Study: Last Day/Video	Semester Summary
Week 17 June 8-10	Final Exam: Online Final Exam: Online	

\*\*\*Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\*