

**IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE
LEGAL ASPECTS OF EVIDENCE AJ 104**

AJ 104: Legal Aspects of Evidence

**Instructor: Kathy Rodriguez
FALL 2012 – 3.0 Units
CRN 10582**

**Telephone: 760-693-2797
Email: kathy.rodriquez@imperial.edu**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will concentrate on California rules of evidence, with statute and case law pertaining to the California peace officer and criminal justice employee. This course will provide an understanding of the statutory, constitutional, and judicial rules that govern the admissibility of evidence in a criminal prosecution.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

Course SLOs: Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are written statements that represent faculty and departmental learning goals for students. During this course, students will:

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

Institutional SLOs: Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs) are areas of learning that students, faculty, staff, and administrators work toward and assess on a regular basis. After successful completion of a program or degree at Imperial Valley College, students are expected to have measurable improvement in the following areas: ISLO1 - Communication Skills, ISLO2 - Critical Thinking Skills, ISLO3 - Personal Responsibility, ISLO4 - Information Literacy, and ISLO5 - Global Awareness.

AJ 104 Legal Aspects of Evidence will provide students with learning opportunities to improve in all five of the Institutional Student Learning Outcomes.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE COURSE

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following course objectives:

Objective 1	Knowledge of the rules of evidence and reasons why evidence is excluded.
Objective 2	Describe ways to present evidence including direct and circumstantial evidence.
Objective 3	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of kinds of witnesses and areas of expert witnesses.
Objective 4	Formulate an appreciation for the value of case study and legal research as a means of interpreting court decisions in relation to written statute.
Objective 5	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of various witness privileges.
Objective 6	Examining the meaning of competency and credibility
Objective 7	Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the 4 th Amendment-Search and Seizure.

COURSE FORMAT

This class is divided into 16 weeks. Each week there will be a quiz. Ten questions worth 10 points to be taken on Blackboard through IVC website. There will be a midterm and a comprehensive final each worth 100 points.

TEXTBOOKS

The following textbooks is required for this course:

1. California Criminal Evidence Guide: A Handbook for the Criminal Justice Student 10th Edition Raymond Hill

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

QUIZZES

After completing the chapter readings, students are to take the required Quiz in the test center accessible through Blackboard The quizzes consist of ten questions and are worth 10 points. Be sure to submit your quiz before the posted deadline. *No late submissions are accepted.*

EXAMS

There are two exams for this course, the midterm exam and the final exam, each worth 100 points. Students are allowed one *handwritten*, 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of notes during the exams (notes can be on both sides of the sheet). The exams must be taken as scheduled

unless *prior* approval has been obtained from the instructor. The exams will be given as follows:

SCHEDULE OF EXAMS	
Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-8)	October 10, 2012
Final Exam (COMPREHENSIVE)	December 3, 2012

GRADES

How much you learn in the course, as well as your final grade, depends on the effort you put into the readings and assignments. There are a total of 16 weeks with a total of 340 points available. Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following weights:

POSSIBLE POINTS		FINAL GRADES
Quizzes	140 points	90 -100 % = A
Exams	<u>200 points</u>	80 - 89 % = B
	Total 340 points	70 - 79% = C
		60 - 69 % = D
		Less than 60% = F

CHEATING

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, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question, such as:

- copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
- communicating test information with another person during an examination;

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE

It is the responsibility of the student to officially withdraw from the course through the Office of Admissions and Records. If you stop actively participating in the course, it does not mean the instructor will drop you, *but she can at her discretion*. The last day to drop the course with a "W" is **November 10, 2012**. *You must officially drop the course yourself before the deadline or you will receive a grade on your official transcript.*

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment; students who disrupt that environment can be asked to leave the course. Faculty and students also have the right of due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the [IVC General Catalog](#).

DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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. The DSP&S office is located in Room 2117, telephone 760-355-6312.

ACCESSIBILITY

Every effort has been made to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the instructor immediately.

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER LESSONS AND QUIZZES

Week 1

8/20 Chapter 1: Introduction to Evidence

Week 2

8/27 Chapter 1: Continued

Week 3

9/03 Chapter 2: Ways of Presenting Evidence
QUIZ 1

Week 4

9/10 Chapter 2: Continued
QUIZ 2

Week 5

9/17 Chapter 3: Testimony of Witnesses
QUIZ 3

Week 6

9/24 Chapter 4: Writings
QUIZ 4

Week 7

10/0 Chapter 5: Material Objects
QUIZ 5

Week 8

10/8 Chapter 6: Revelancy
QUIZ 6 - BLACKBOARD

Week 9

10/15 Chapter 7: Competency and Credibility

Week 10

10/22 Chapter 7: Continued
QUIZ 7-BLACKBOARD

Week 11

10/29 Chapter 8: Burden of Proof
QUIZ 8- BLACKBOARD

Week 12

11/5 Chapter 9: Witness Privileges
QUIZ 9- BLACKBOARD

Week 13

11/12 Chapter 10: Hearsay Evidence

QUIZ 10 - BLACKBOARD

Week 14

11/19 Chapter 11: The 4th Amendment Search and Seizure

QUIZ 11- BLACKBOARD

Week 15

11/26 Chapter 12: Miranda and Confession Law

Chapter 13: Methods of Identification

Review for final exam

Week 16

12/07 **FINAL EXAM** - covering entire semester
