

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2017	Instructor Name:	Jesus J. Serrano
Course Title & #:	AJ 104 Legal Aspects of Evidence	Email:	jesus.serrano@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10684	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	32012	Office #:	3207 B
Class Dates:	Aug. 14-Dec. 8	Office Hours:	Monday by Appointment Tuesday 5:00 pm -6:30 pm Wednesday 5:30pm-6:30 pm Thursday 5:00 pm-6:30 pm
Class Days:	Tuesday & Thursday	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6340
Class Times:	3:35 pm- 5:00 pm	Emergency Contact:	Rhonda Ruiz (760) 355-6280
Units:	3		

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. (CSU).

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. (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

1. 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

- California Criminal Evidence Guide: A Handbook for the Criminal Justice Student by Raymond M. Hill
- ISBN: #0-9620412-1-1-9

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (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

Total Points: 1000 points

- **Tests: Four tests at 100 points each** = 400 points
- **Quiz: 13 study guides quizzes (at approximately 11 points each)** = 150 points
- **Term Paper: (Topic Approved by Instructor)** = 100 Points
- **Group exercise** = 100 Points
- **Final Exam** = 200 Points
- **Class attendance/participation in discussions, or activities** = 50 Points
- ***Bonus or extra credit (Approved by Instructor)** = *50 Points

A = 1000-900 B = 899-800 C = 799-700 D = 699-600 F =599and 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.

Failure to take an exam will result in a zero for that exam unless prior approval is given by the instructor. Exams will be thirty minutes long and will be given at the start of class. If you are late to class, you will not be given extra time to take the exam. Bring a No. 2 Pencil and ScanTron form to class on exam days.

You must communicate to your instructor any problems that you are having with the course.

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. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and 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.

Classroom Etiquette

- 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 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](#).
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others’ opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!)].

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 Student 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.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

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 Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

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.

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.

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 Course Syllabus – AJ 104 Legal Aspects of Evidence

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

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 August 15	Orientation and overview of Course	
Week 1 August 17	Lecture Chapter 1 Introduction of Evidence	
Week 2 August 22	Lecture Chapter 1 Introduction of Evidence Complete Quiz #1	
Week 2 August 24	Lecture Chapter 2 Ways of Presenting Evidence	
Week 3 August 29	Lecture Chapter 2 Ways of Presenting Evidence Complete Quiz #2	
Week 3 August 31	Lecture Chapter 3 Testimony of Witness	
Week 4 September 5	Lecture Chapter 3 Testimony of Witness Complete Quiz #3	
Week 4 September 7	Lecture Chapter 4 Writings Test 1 Chapter 1- Chapter 3	Test #1
Week 5 September 12	Lecture Chapter 4 Writings Complete Quiz #4	
Week 5 September 14	Lecture Chapter 5 Material Objects	
Week 6 September 19	Lecture Chapter 5 Material Objects Complete Quiz #5	
Week 6 September 21	Chapter 6 Relevancy	
Week 7 September 26	Chapter 6 Relevancy Complete Quiz #6	
Week 7 September 28	Chapter 7 Competency and Creditability Test 2 Chapter 4 – Chapter 6	Test #2
Week 8 October 3	Chapter 7 Competency and Creditability Complete Quiz #7	
Week 8 October 5	Chapter 8 Burden of Proof	
Week 9 October 10	Chapter 8 Burden of Proof Complete Quiz #8	
Week 9 October 12	Chapter 9 Witness Privilege	
Week 10 October 17	Chapter 9 Witness Privilege Complete Quiz #9	

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Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 10 October 19	Chapter 10 Hearsay Evidence Test 3 Chapter 7 – Chapter 9	Test #3
Week 11 October 24	Chapter 10 Hearsay Evidence Complete Quiz #10	
Week 11 October 26	Chapter 11 The Fourth Amendment	
Week 12 October 31	Chapter 11 The Fourth Amendment	
Week 12 November 2	Chapter 11 The Fourth Amendment	
Week 13 November 7	Chapter 11 The Fourth Amendment Complete Quiz #11	
Week 13 November 9	Chapter 12 Miranda And Confession Law	
Week 14 November 14	Chapter 12 Miranda And Confession Law Complete Quiz #12	
Week 14 November 16	Chapter 13 Methods Identification	
Week 15 November 21	Chapter 13 Methods Identification Complete Quiz #13 Term Paper Due	
Week 15 November 23	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Week 16 November 28	Test 4 Chapter 10- Chapter 13 Classroom Group Activity	Test #4
Week 16 November 30	Final Exam Review	
Week 17 December 5	Group Activity Due	Group Exercise Due
Week 17 December 7	Final Exam	Final Exam

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