

AJ 108: Public Safety Report Writing

Semester:	Fall 2020	Instructor Name:	George Chavarria
Course:	AJ 108 Public Safety Report Writing	Email:	George.chavarria@Imperial.edu
CRN #:	10692	Office Hours:	By Appointment
Classroom:	Online	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6280
Class Dates:	08/24/20 – 12/12/20	Campus Contact:	Rhonda Ruiz: 760-355-6280
Days/Times:	Online	Units:	3.0

Course Description

This course is an introductory course, dealing with all aspects of public safety communication. It will cover the techniques to effectively communicate facts, information, and ideas in a clear and logical manner for a variety of public safety systems reports, crime violations, incident reports, letters, memorandums, directives, and administrative reports. Emphasis on criminal justice terminology, use of English, and organization of information. Students will gain practical experience in note taking, interviewing, report writing, and presentation of testimony in courts.

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 importance of honesty and truthfulness in gathering information and documenting that information for possible future prosecution. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3)
2. Write a report documenting the pertinent facts obtained from witnesses at a crime scene, or scenario of a crime scene, that would be able to be used in a court of law. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)
3. Identify and distinguish facts, information and statements into a logical and understandable format that fulfills the legal requirements of a lawful arrest and applicable procedures for both misdemeanor and felony arrests. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)

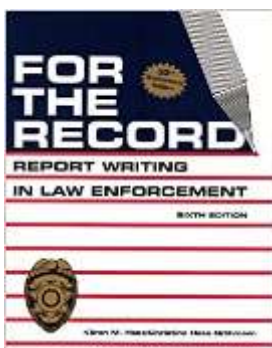
Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Criminal Justice System and various uses of written report required in law enforcement.
2. Practice the ABC's or writing: Accuracy, Brevity, Completeness. Organize sentences in a logical sequential order, relatively free of errors.
3. Practice and apply basic rules of English to effectively communicate information as required within the Criminal Justice System to include who, what, where, when, why and how.
4. Organize information into an effective reportable format. Student will demonstrate knowledge and use of different forms, formats, and reporting styles.
5. Take field notes and compile data to be used in cohesive formal reports.

6. Understand and demonstrate the basic steps of an interview and interrogation, using verbal and non-verbal techniques and satisfactorily document the interview/interrogation.
7. Interpret and synthesize case studies, simulation, and role plays, into accurate and complete reports.
8. Demonstrate knowledge and use of technology (computers, laptops, recordings, etc.) utilized in report writing.
9. Competently complete and proofread crime, probation, parole, violation, incident, and other reports for their use in court proceedings and/or hearings.
10. Practice testifying in mock courtroom and other legal proceedings as to information contained in previously written testimony.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links



For the Record Workbook

Edition: 6th

ISBN: 9780940309197

Author: Hess

Publisher: Innovative Systems

Formats: PAPERBACK

Copyright Year: 2008

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Audio Visual
Discussion

Group Activity
Lecture

Simulation/Case Study
Distance Learning

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

Assignment Descriptors	Points
Quizzes	120
Mid-term	100
Final	100
Research Paper	80
Total	400

Grade	Points Required
A	360-400 points
B	320-359 points
C	280-319 points
D	240-279 points
F	0-239 points

Extra Credit: Up to 40 points in extra credit can be earned for a presentation on research paper.

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.

Online Netiquette

- "Netiquette" refers to the rules of behaving well online. It can be more difficult to discern meaning in written text than in spoken conversation, so pay particular attention to your words.
- Keep your language clear and concise; ensure posts are on-topic; use correct spelling, grammar, and capitalization (all caps = yelling); and contribute productively to conversations.

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 importance 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#).** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for the [Math Lab \(Links to an external site.\)](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs \(Links to an external site.\)](#); and the [Study Skills Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#).
- **[Library Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#).** There is more to our library than just books! You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 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 and El Centro Regional Center provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6310 in Room 2109 for more information.
- **[Mental Health Counseling Services](#).** Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC [Mental Health Counseling Services](#) at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

Veterans' Center

The mission of the [IVC Military and Veteran Success Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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.

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Information Literacy

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

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week 1 – 08/24/20	Syllabus Review and Class Introduction Online Video Report Writing Assignment
Week 2 – 08/31/20	Chapter 1: An Introduction to Reports and Report Writing/ Quiz #1
Week 3 – 09/08/20	Chapter 2: Characteristics of a Well-Written Report: Content/ Quiz #2
Week 4 – 09/14/20	Chapter 3: Characteristics of a Well-Written Report: Form/ Quiz #3
Week 5 – 09/21/20	Chapter 4: Steps in Report Writing/ Quiz #4
Week 6 – 09/28/20	Chapter 5: Principles of Clear Writing/ Quiz #5
Week 7 – 10/05/20	Chapter 6: Choosing the Right Words/ Quiz #6
Week 8 – 10/12/20	Mid-term Exam on Chapters 1-6
Week 9 – 10/19/20	Chapter 7: Grammar/ Quiz #7
Week 10 – 10/26/20	Chapter 8: Sentences that Make Sense/ Quiz #8 Student Presentations
Week 11 – 11/02/20	Chapter 9: Spelling and Apostrophes/ Quiz #9
Week 12 – 11/09/20	Chapter 10: Abbreviations, Numbers and Capitalization/ Quiz #10
Week 13 – 11/16/20	Chapter 11: Commas/ Quiz #11
Week 14 – 11/23/20	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes November 23-28
Week 15 – 11/30/20	Chapter 12: Other Punctuation Marks/ Quiz #12
Week 16 – 12/07/20	Final Exam

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