

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2026	Instructor Name:	Kathy Rodriguez
Course Title & #:	Legal Aspects of Evidence AJ 104	Email:	Kathy.kathy.rodriguez@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20361	Webpage (optional):	None
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	3209
Class Dates:	02/17/26-06/12/26	Office Hours:	M-R 4:00 pm – 5:00 p
Class Days:	Online	Office Phone #:	760-355-6245
Class Times:	Online	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6280
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	Online

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.

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. (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

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 admission.
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

Criminal Evidence 9th edition by Norman M. Garland: Publisher: McGraw-Hill Higher Education

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

The major activities in this course include:

- **Assignments:** These activities may be in the form of a quiz, but it is considered an assignment.
- **Discussions** Each week, you'll participate in online discussions where you'll share your ideas, respond to your peers, and receive feedback.

Quizzes These low-stakes activities are meant to check your understanding of writing concepts.

Tests: Overview of the chapter readings

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Always check the Announcements before you start your work online.



- If you have a question that is personal in nature, for example, a question about your grade, send me an email at Kathy.rodriguez@imperial.edu
- If you email me be sure to include your entire name, section # of the class, and the name of the class, (AJ 100).
- I will respond to all emails within 24 hours.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Assignment Descriptors	Points
Assignments	30 (100)
Discussions	5 (15)
Quiz	100 (10)
Exams	100 (4)



Final Exam	50(1)
TOTAL POINTS	625

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. No late assignments accepted. Make every effort to turn in assignments on time or you may receive a zero for those assignments. No late assignments will be accepted.

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. Any student using AI for any assignment in this course will receive a score of zero for the entire assignment.

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



Student Expectations

To be successful in this course, you are expected to:

- Read the entire **Syllabus**.
- Consistently check **Announcements**, your school email account, and the Canvas Inbox.
- Review the **Calendar** for due dates.
- Participate in **Discussions** by posting weekly and responding to at least one classmate.
- Submit your own work that is thoughtfully completed and proofread for spelling and grammar errors.
- **Communicate** with your instructor if you encounter any problems or confusion, well in advance of the due date.
- **Complete** all discussions, assignments, online quizzes, and/or exams on time.

Instructor Expectations

As your instructor, I will:

- **Communicate** with you via Canvas Announcements and Inbox.
- **Post** weekly course-related announcements.
- **Respond** to your emails or messages within 24–48 hours.
- **Monitor** all discussions and provide feedback to the entire class at least weekly.
- Provide individual **feedback** on assignments, papers, and projects within one week of the due date.
- Work with you to ensure a **successful learning experience** in this course.
- Provide all course materials in an accessible format to support all learners.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence AI)

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 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.
- *Anyone using AI for their assignments will receive a 0 for the entire assignment. NO tolerance for AI*
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, 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.



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

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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.

Attendance

- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for the first week may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped. Week 1 requires mandatory assignments to be completed by the end of the first week. Failure to complete them may result in you being dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

What does it mean to "attend" an online class?

- Attendance is critical to student success and for IVC to use federal aid funds. Acceptable indications of attendance are:
 - Student submission of an academic assignment
 - Student submission of an exam
 - Student participation in an instructor-led Zoom conference
 - Documented student interaction with class postings, such as an interactive tutorial or computer.

Assisted instruction via modules.



- A posting by the student showing the student's participation in an assignment created by the instructor.
- A posting by the student in a discussion forum showing the student's participation in an online discussion about academic matters.
- An email from the student or other documentation showing that the student has initiated contact with a faculty member to ask a question about an academic subject studied in the course.

Honorlock

Honorlock will proctor your exams this semester. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7, and all that is required is a computer, a working webcam/microphone, your ID, and a stable internet connection. Honorlock is not compatible with a cell phone or ipad.

Honorlock minimum requirements are as follows: OS: Windows 11+, MacOS 13+ or higher, and ChromeOS version 120+ Browser: Google Chrome version 120+. Internet: 1.5 Mbps download and 750 Kbps upload. To view our minimum system requirements on our website, please visit Honorlock.com/supportLinks to an external site.

To get started, you will need Google Chrome and download the Honorlock Chrome Extension [Links to an external site.](#)

When you are ready to complete your assessment, log into Canvas, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking "Launch Proctoring" will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session through your webcam, microphone, and recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them through live chat on the support page [Links to an external site.](#) or within the exam itself. Some guides you should review are [Honorlock MSRs Links to an external site.](#), [Student FAQ Links to an external site.](#), [Honorlock Knowledge Base Links to an external site.](#), and [How to Use Honorlock Links to an external site.](#)



"Exams are taken through a Canvas-supported online proctoring system; further instructions will be provided in Canvas. Students must have a compatible computer or laptop and stable internet connection. A camera, microphone, and personal identification is required."

An appointment can be made at the IVC Library to complete your assignments should you choose not to be videotaped. You will be proctored by IVC while at the library.

If you have any technical issues, click on the link below.

[Honorlock.com/support](https://honorlock.com/support).

Proctoring Services Test

If you do not want to be recorded during your assignments or quizzes through Honorlock, you can be proctored at the Imperial Valley College library. You must follow the instructions. **Proctoring Services Test**

The Learning Services Department offers test proctoring services to their students and the community free of charge. Our center is committed to providing a secure and inclusive environment to help support academic integrity. Test proctoring is only offered **Tuesdays from 1pm-5pm and Fridays from 9 am-3 pm**.

- Once a submission has been made by the instructor, it is the individual's responsibility to schedule a test proctoring appointment.
- We require a 48-hour notice from the professor/student to set up the appointment.
- You must contact the instructor within 24 hours or as soon as possible if you choose to be proctored at the library.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! 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.

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. Your Grades Matter! 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.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 Feb 17-22	Syllabus & Introduction Chapter 1 Introduction to the Law of Evidence and the Pretrial Process	Assignments/Quiz
Week 2 Feb 23-Mar 01	Chapter 2 The Trial Process	Assignments/Quiz
Week 3 Mar 02-08	Chapter 3 Evidence-Basic Concepts	Assignments/Quiz
Week 4 Mar 09-15	Chapter 4 witnesses-Competency and Privileged Communications	Assignments/Quiz
Week 5 Mar 16-22	Chapter 5 Witnesses-Lay and Expert	Assignments/Quiz
Week 6 Mar 23-29	Chapter 6 Credibility and Impeachment	Assignments/Quiz
Week 7 Mar 30-Apr.5	Chapter 7 The Hearsay Rule	Assignments/Quiz
Apr 06-12	Spring Break-No Class	
Week 8 Apr 13-19	Chapter 8 Opposing Party's Statement and Confessions	Assignments/Quiz
Week 9 Apr 20-26	Chapter 9 The Exclusionary Rule	Assignments/Quiz
Week 10 Apr 27-May 03	Chapter 10 Exclusionary Rule -Identification Procedures	Assignments/Quiz
Week 11 May 04-10	Chapter 11 Circumstantial Evidence	Assignments/Quiz
Week 12 May 11-17	Chapter 12 Documentary Evidence and the Right of Discovery	Assignments/Quiz
Week 13 May 18-24	Chapter 13 Physical Evidence	Assignments/Quiz



Week 14 May 25-31	Chapter 14 Photographic, Recorded, and Computer-Generated Evidence	Assignments/Quiz
Week 15 June 01-07	Chapter 15 How to Testify Effectively	Assignments/Quiz
Week 16 June 08-12	Final Exam	Assignments/Final Exam

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