



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	AJ
Course Number:	131
Descriptive Title:	Legal Aspects of Evidence
Division:	Health Sciences & Athletics
Department:	Administration of Justice
Course Disciplines:	Administration of Justice
Catalog Description:	This course covers the legal aspects of evidence and the constitutional and procedural considerations affecting arrest, and search and seizure. Topics covered include types of evidence and rules governing their admissibility, judicial decisions interpreting individual rights and case studies viewed with respect to how they are applied in a criminal process from arrest to trial.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English 1A
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to July 1992
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education: ECC	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	

	IGETC:
	Term:
	Other:
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Probable Cause</p> <p>Successful students in AJ 131, having read text material, participated in class discussions and group assignments, and after completing various writing assignments during the course, will be able to write and explain the 4th Amendment concept of probable cause, and will be able to contrast that with the appellate court decisions on the concepts of reasonable suspicion and consensual encounter.</p> <p>SLO #2 Rules of Evidence</p> <p>After reading a hypothetical fact situation, successful AJ 131 students will be able to locate and identify legal issues and apply the correct rule of evidence to those issues.</p> <p>SLO #3 Legal Brief from Published Case Decision</p> <p>After receiving instruction in legal research, successful AJ 131 students will be able to locate a case decision in a published law book or online website, read said decision and prepare a legal brief using proper format.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe and evaluate various types of evidence. 2. Describe and explain foundational requirements for scientific evidence and expert testimony. 3. Distinguish among rules of testimonial, real, and documentary evidence, and their admissibility. 4. Describe the factors that establish witness competency. 5. Compare and contrast direct and circumstantial evidence. 6. Explain search and seizure as applied to evidentiary matters. 7. Describe the discovery process as related to criminal evidence. 8. Assess relevant and material evidence. 9. Explain the hearsay rule and its various exceptions. 10. Compare and contrast spousal privilege with attorney-client privilege.
Major Topics:	<p>I. OVERVIEW OF EVIDENCE (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Definition of evidence B. Burden of proof C. Sources of evidence law <p>II. LEGAL RESEARCH, EVIDENCE (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Impact of case law B. Major case review - evidentiary matters C. How legal research is conducted <p>III. TYPES OF EVIDENCE (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Testimonial evidence B. Real or physical evidence

C. Documentary evidence

IV. SPECIAL KINDS OF EVIDENCE (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Presumptions
- B. Judicial notice
- C. Inferences

V. WITNESSES - COMPETENCY (6 hours, lecture)

- A. Define
- B. Ability to narrate
- C. Define competency
- D. Grounds for qualification and disqualification of witnesses
- E. Impeachment of witness
- F. Voir dire to establish competence
- G. Corroboration
- H. Past recollection recorded
- I. Refresh memory
- J. Rehabilitation

VI. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE (4 hours, lecture)

- A. Basis for rule
- B. Best evidence rule
- C. Secondary evidence
- D. Parole evidence rule

VII. PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Admissibility of photographs
- B. Posed photographs
- C. Gruesome photographs
- D. Nude photographs

VIII. CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE (4 hours, lecture)

- A. Circumstantial evidence of intent
- B. Circumstantial evidence of guilt

IX. HEARSAY (10 hours, lecture)

- A. Definition
- B. Hearsay rule
- C. Exceptions to hearsay rule

X. PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS (3 hours, lecture)

- A. Basis for privileges
- B. Specific privileges

	<p>XI. SEARCH AND SEIZURE AS APPLIED TO EVIDENTIARY MATTERS (6 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. History and development of case law: review of 4th amendment rules</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The exclusionary rule and evidentiary processes 2. Definitions 3. Search warrants 4. Search incident of arrest: approach to admissibility 5. Plain view 6. Consent search 7. Law of detention 8. Frisk 9. Search for specific areas 10. Administrative searches 11. Forcible seizure of evidence <p>B. Other exceptions to the warrant requirement</p> <p>XII. SELF-INCRIMINATION (3 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Scope of privilege</p> <p>B. Granting immunity</p> <p>C. Non-testimonial compulsion</p> <p>D. Miranda warnings</p> <p>E. Case law affecting custodial interrogation</p> <p>XIII. DISCOVERY: PROCEDURE FOR OFFERING AND CHALLENGING EVIDENCE (3 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Right of discovery</p> <p>B. Reporting and discovery procedures</p> <p>C. Duty to preserve evidence</p> <p>D. Grand jury</p> <p>E. Preliminary hearing as discovery tool</p> <p>F. Evidence unavailable for discovery</p>
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Write a one- to two-page legal brief for the case "Terry versus Ohio." Submit to the instructor.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Provided with a criminal court case involving a robbery that contains hearsay statements, analyze the situation and apply the hearsay rule and/or applicable exceptions in a one- to two-page report. Submit to the instructor.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Defend the best evidence rule as it applies to electronic media. Site the legal concept to support in an oral presentation and submit to the instructor.

Other Evaluation Methods:	Embedded Questions, Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Oral Exams, Other Exams, Presentation, Quizzes, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activities, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Role play/simulation
If other:	Internet Presentation/Resources
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Problem solving activity, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Judy Hallis. <u>CRIMINAL EVIDENCE</u> . 8th ed. Cengage, 2014. (Discipline Standard)
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	<p>This course involves reading a college level textbook and writing reports. A student's success in the class will be enhanced if they have these skills.</p> <p>Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts.</p> <p>Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.</p>

Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	John Hampton
Date:	09/01/1968
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Andrea Roberson
Date:	10/03/2023
Last Board Approval Date:	01/17/2024
Effective Term:	FALL 2024