

CRIMINOLOGY-3-54785
Legal Aspects of Evidence (3 units)
Fall 2019
08/12/2019 - 12/13/2019
Lecture Wednesday
6:00PM – 8:50PM, CCI Building, Room 204
Instructor – Skye Leibee
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Office Hours: N/A

Course Description: This course examines categories of evidence and legal rules which govern their admissibility or exclusion in a United States court of law.

ADVISORIES: Eligibility for English 125, 126, 128 & 130. (A, CSU) Course Credits/Class Hours: 3

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester it is expected that the student will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the various historical and developmental concepts involved in evidentiary procedure.
2. Use the California Evidence Code (and other various related legal codes).
3. Evaluate various kinds of evidence using inductive and deductive reasoning to ensure its admissibility in court.
4. Use the vocabulary of the legal evidence language.

Learning Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Identify and differentiate various types of evidence.
2. Define and describe key rules of evidence and demonstrate the ability to use the California Evidence Code and the California Penal Code appropriately.
3. Critically evaluate the various types of evidence and apply rules of evidence to specific case facts.

Required Text and Materials:

Important Note: Assignments are embedded in the required textbook. Students are encouraged to purchase or familiarize themselves with the campus resources available to them early on. Such acquisition of the required materials will increase the likelihood of successfully completing the course. While your instructor understands the cost of textbooks can be significant, the text selected for this course will afford you a greater opportunity to develop an appropriate understanding of the course learning objectives and therefore strengthen your learning and retention of the material.

- “Criminal Evidence: Principles & Cases”, 9th edition, Author – Gardner, ISBN 9781285459004 (available at campus bookstore).
- A #2 pencil
- 882-E scantrons for all quizzes and exams

Americans with Disabilities Act: Reedley College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request any accommodation for this course, please contact the Coordinator of Disabilities at (559) 638-3641 (**DSP&S:** www.reedleycollege.edu/student-services/disabled-student-programs-and-services/index.html). A copy of the appropriate form, Notification of Authorized Services, needs to be submitted to the instructor – preferably within the first two weeks of the semester.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM

- The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity.
- The instructor can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.
- Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment. This includes cell phone use during class.
- The use of cell phones and other electronic devices in the classroom will be at the instructor’s discretion. Minimizing the distraction to the instructor and students will factor into the instructor’s decision to allow the use of such devices.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

- Students guilty of academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are responsible to the instructor of the class. Academic dishonesty is defined as, but not limited to, plagiarism and cheating.
- At the discretion of the instructor, students who cheat or steal work from another source will be subject to significant consequences.
 - Cheating - is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without the instructor's permission.
 - Plagiarism - is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved.

- See the Reedley College Catalog for further information regarding cheating and plagiarism.
- Additional disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct.

Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment or education, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance or education, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or education environment.

Disclaimer:

Due to the nature and reality of work in the criminal justice system, real life examples, verbal and non-verbal expression and role-playing by the instructor may be used to demonstrate to students important learning points. These examples are not meant to demean or insult any group or individual, but simply to give students an understanding of the reality that exists in this profession and prepare them to deal with different types of people and situations in a professional manner.

Help:

If you are having trouble in this class due a change in life circumstances or something you do not understand please see the instructor immediately. There are a number of services available to assist you at Reedley College. **Your success in this class is very important to me** and I will work with you to assist you in succeeding in this course. However, you must remember success in this course is in part dependent on your engagement with the course material and class (See keys to successful course completion.)

Course changes:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes on this syllabus, and may attempt to discuss these changes and their implications to students before they are implemented. Please review this course in Canvas and check your e-mail daily as I regularly use these methods to communicate information to students.

Course Requirements:

All assignments are expected to be submitted on the day due. *If absent on the day completed/collected, the assignment and/or quiz will need to be submitted online via Canvas* by the time class starts for the date the item is due (see weekly task list for chapter DUE dates). Your grade will be based on successful completion of the following (in whole or in part):

1. **Quizzes*:** Quizzes will be given regularly to assess how well you are learning the material (worth 20 points each, 80 points total).

2. **Participation:** This is your class as well as mine. Student participation in discussion is critical to the assimilation of the material covered. *If called upon by me to answer a question or offer a thought on the subject at hand, you are expected to give a coherent response. Simply shrugging your shoulders and saying “I don’t know” is not acceptable. Additionally, if you are not present you are unable to participate.* All the students in the class are asked questions regularly to enable them to display understanding of topics discussed. You must be present and participate effectively when called upon to earn participation points for each class session (worth 80 points total).

3. **Exams*:** Four exams will be given during the semester. Each is worth 50 points (200 total points).

4. **Final:** The final is worth 100 points.

5. **Discussion Boards/Homework Assignment(s):** A homework assignment focusing on evidence collection and the use of evidence in court will be part of this course. The details of which will be handed out at a later date by the instructor. Worth 40 points.

* **Tests will not be made up unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.** In the event a student simply fails to show for a scheduled quiz or examination without notifying the instructor, the student **WILL NOT** be allowed to take that quiz or examination.

Grading Criteria/Scale:

Participation	80 points
Quizzes	80 points
Exams	200 points
Disc. Brds / HW	40 points
Final Exam	100 points
TOTAL	<hr/> 500 points

Grade Scale:

90 – 100%	= A
80 – 89%	= B
70 – 79%	= C
60 – 69%	= D
00 – 59%	= F

Attendance and Tardiness Policies:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss the first class of the semester will be dropped, unless the instructor is notified in advance and agrees to hold the student’s position in class. Ultimately, **it is the student’s responsibility to officially**

drop a class in which he/she no longer wishes to be enrolled. Be mindful of the drop dates listed in the Catalog and the final drop date halfway through the semester. Being late to class is disruptive to the flow of learning for the students and instructor. Trying to track tardiness when class is already in session adds additional distractions and interruptions to the learning environment. Therefore, if you are not present when roll is taken, you will be counted as absent. You are encouraged to still attend the class, but enter the classroom as quietly as possible in order to minimize interruptions.

Keys to successful course completion:

This class is designed to provide the student with a positive learning experience and to give them valuable knowledge that will benefit them in a career in criminal justice. I see every student as exceptionally valuable and encourage them to do their best to succeed. I will be there for you to help you achieve this success.

1. Attend class regularly and on time
2. Ask questions when you are unsure of the material
3. Carefully read all assigned chapters
4. Take good notes during class and discussions
5. Participate actively and thoughtfully in class sessions
6. Get assignments done on time
7. Study and prepare for quizzes and exams
8. Seek my assistance when you are struggling with learning a topic for added assistance.

Semester Outline: (COR = Course Outline of Record)

Week #1 (Aug. 14)

Review Syllabus and Class Introductions

Week #2 (Aug. 21)

TBD

Week #3 (Aug. 28)

TBD

Week #4 (Sep. 4)

TBD

Week #5 (Sep. 11)

TBD

Week #6 (Sep. 18)

TBD

Week #7 (Sep. 25)
TBD

Week #8 (Oct. 2)
TBD

Week #9 (Oct. 9)
TBD

Week #10 (Oct. 16)
TBD

Week #11 (Oct. 23)
TBD

Week #12 (Oct. 30)
TBD

Week#13 (Nov. 6)
TBD

Week#14 (Nov. 13)
TBD

Week#15 (Nov. 20)
TBD

Week#16 (Nov. 27)
TBD

Week#17 (Dec. 4)
TBD

Week#18 (Dec. 11)
Wednesday- Final **TBD**

Important Campus Dates

August 23 – Last Day to Drop (for full refund)
August 30 – Last Day to Drop (Avoid “W”)
September 2 – ***Labor Day (No School)***
October 11 – Last Day to Drop (Letter grade assigned after this date)
November 11 – ***Veterans Day (No School)***
November 28-29 – ***Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)***
December 9-13 – Finals Week / End of Fall Semester