

**CRIMINOLOGY-3-54200**

**Legal Aspects of Evidence**

**(3 units) Spring 2022**

**01/31/2022 – 05/20/2022**

**ONLINE**

**Instructor - Skye Leibee**

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**Office Hours: *Wednesday's 11:00 AM***  
***(Zoom)***

**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**

**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", 9<sup>th</sup> edition*, Author - Gardner, ISBN9781285459004 (available at campus bookstore).
- *Electronic Device with a working camera and microphone capable of Internet Service (Desktop, Laptop, Tablet, Smart Phone)*
- Desktop or Laptop Computer **STRONGLY** recommended for the course

**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](http://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.

### **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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.

- o 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.
- o 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 to 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. Assignments not submitted when due will be penalized 10 % or (1) full grade per day for a maximum of (3) calendar days.

Example: An assignment submitted (1) day late will receive a 10% or (1) full grade deduction from the final grade/points earned for that assignment. If the assignment would have been graded with an “A”, the grade will be a “B” because of the late submission.

If the assignment has not been submitted by the end of the third day after the due date, the assignment will no longer be accepted, and you will receive no credit for that assignment.

Course exams/tests are expected to be taken/submitted on the date identified.

- Absent verifiable emergencies and/or prior arrangements with the Instructor, there will be no make-up exams/tests Your grade will be based on successful completion of the following (in whole or in part):

**Quizzes\*:** Quizzes *may* be given to assess how well you are learning the material (worth 10 points each).

**Participation:** This is your class as well as mine. Student participation in discussion is critical to the assimilation of the material covered. All students in the course may be asked questions regularly on discussion boards to enable them to display understanding of topics covered, read, watched, or discussed. You must be engaged in the course material and processes.

1. **Exams\*:** Up to four exams may be given during the semester. Each is worth 50 points (200 total points).
2. **Final:** The final is worth 100 points.
3. **Discussion Boards/Homework Assignment(s):** Homework assignment(s) focusing on legal evidence will be part of this course. The details of which will be explained at a later date by the instructor. Worth 10-20 points (each). Discussion boards may be used frequently and will vary dependent on the topic. Discussion boards will be worth 10-20 points as well.

**Grading Criteria/Scale:** Tentative / *Subject to Change*

Participation	100 points
Quizzes	100 points
Exams	200 points
Disc. Brds / HW	200 points
Final Exam	100 points
TOTAL	<hr/> 700 points

**Attendance / Drop Policy**

Students are expected to sign in or log in to the course no later than the first Friday of the semester. During the first week of the course, there will be assignments that need to be completed before moving onto the following module(s). Students who do not sign in or log in and complete the assignments by the end of the first week 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. If a student does not complete any of the assignments by the census date, the student will be dropped from the course.

**Course Communication Policy:**

Canvas mail or email (refer to top of syllabus) is the preferred method of communication for private messages between students and the instructor in this course. Please remember, however, that while the Internet is available 24 hours a day, I and other students are not. You can expect I will respond to messages in Canvas within 24/48 hours or earlier, depending on the urgency of the communication.

For non-urgent or general questions regarding the course, assignments, or specialized instructions, please use the "Briefing Room" forum. If I am unavailable to answer your question(s), one of your classmates may have the information you are inquiring about.

***Urgent issues should be addressed via Canvas mail, phone call, or text message as soon as you become aware of potential conflicts with attendance or completion of assignments. Please refrain from calling unless absolutely necessary.***

In the event you need more personalized communication, we may schedule a one on one conference via Zoom. (Also see Virtual Office Hours)

**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. **Be engaged in the course.**
2. Ask questions when you are unsure of the material.
3. Carefully read all assigned chapters.
4. Take good notes during lectures and discussions.
5. Participate actively and thoughtfully in discussion boards or other interactive assignments.
6. Complete assignments on time and follow the directions given.
7. Study and prepare for quizzes and exams.

**Semester Outline:**

Week #1 (Jan. 31-Feb. 6)

Review Syllabus and Class Introductions  
Chapter 1

Week #2 (Feb. 7-Feb. 13)

TBD

Week #3 (Feb. 14-Feb. 20)

TBD

Week #4 (Feb. 21-Feb. 27)

TBD

Week #5 (Feb. 28-Mar. 6)

TBD

Week #6 (Mar. 7-Mar. 13)

TBD

Week #7 (Mar. 14-Mar. 20)

TBD

Week #8 (Mar. 21-Mar. 27)

TBD

Week #9 (Mar. 28-Apr. 3)

TBD

Week #10 (Apr. 4-Apr. 10)

TBD

Week #11 (Apr. 11-Apr. 17)

TBD

Week #12 (Apr. 18-Apr. 24)

TBD

Week#13 (Apr. 25-May 1)

TBD

Week#14 (May. 2-May 8)

TBD

Week#15 (May 9-May 15)

TBD

Week #16 (May 16-May 20)

Finals Week

**Important Campus Dates:**

*January 10 – Start of Fall Semester*  
*January 17 – MLK Day – No Classes*  
*February 18 - Lincoln’s Day - No Classes*  
*February 20 - Washington’s Day – No Classes*  
*March 1 – Deadline to Apply for Graduation*  
*March 11 - Last Day to Drop*  
*April 11-15 - Spring Break – No Classes*  
*May 16-20 - Finals Week*  
*May 20 - End of Semester / Commencement*