

Lassen Community College Course Outline

AJ-23 Criminal Evidence

3.0 Units

I. Catalog Description

A course dealing with the concepts of evidence, types, and rules governing admissibility. Judicial decisions, interpretation of individual rights and prosecution decisions are examined. Developing trends in the laws of criminal evidence are discussed. This course has been approved for hybrid and online delivery.

Recommended Preparation: Successful completion of ENGL105 or equivalent multiple measures placement.

Transfers to CSU only

C-ID AJ 124

51 Hours Lecture, 102 Expected Outside Class Hours, 153 Total Student Learning Hours
Scheduled: Fall (even)

II. Coding Information

Repeatability: Not Repeatable, Take 1 Time

Grading Option: Graded or Pass/No Pass

Credit Type: Credit - Degree Applicable

TOP Code: 210500

III. Course Objectives

A. Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the American criminal justice court system and the American criminal justice process.
2. Describe the laws that govern the collection of evidence – real, documentary, and scientific – in order to ensure its admissibility in a criminal trial.
3. Describe the laws that govern witnesses and witness testimony.

B. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history and development of criminal evidence concepts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of concepts of evidence.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic rules of evidence.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the purpose for rules of evidence.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the kinds and types of evidence.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of relevant and admissibility tests.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of privileged communication.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of subpoenas, burden of proof, corpus delicti, jurisdiction, and venue.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of hearsay and its exceptions.
10. Demonstrate knowledge of competency.
11. Demonstrate knowledge of search and seizure concepts.
12. Demonstrate knowledge of line-ups, show-ups, and use of photos.

13. Demonstrate knowledge of communication, note taking and report writing.
14. Demonstrate knowledge of crime scene search, collecting, and preservation of evidence.
15. Demonstrate knowledge of courtroom demeanor and presentation.

IV. Course Content

- A. Origin, concept, and philosophy of the American Criminal Justice System.
 1. The adversary system
 2. The court and jury system
- B. Concepts of evidence
- C. The exclusionary rule,
- D. Rules of evidence (dependable, credible and trustworthy)
 - a. Dependable
 - b. Ceditible
 - c. Trustworthy
- E. Types of evidence
 - a. Direct evidence
 - b. Circumstantial evidence
 - c. Documentry evidence
 - d. Statements and Confessions
 - e. Best evidence rule
 - f. Fruits at the crime
 - g. Instrumentalities of a crime
- F. Offering evidence in court
 - a. Proof
 - b. Impeach
 - c. Rehabilitate
 - d. Assist in determining sentence
- G. Tests for admissibility
 - a. Must be relevant
 - b. Must be competently presented
 - c. Must be legally obtained
- H. Witnesses
 - a. Compentency
 - b. Privledged Communication
 - c. Lay
 - d. Expert
- I. Hearsay rule
 - a. Exceptions to the Hearsay rule
- J. The Trial Process
- K. Testifying in Court
 - a. Demeanor and appearance
 - b. Preparing and giving courtroom testimony

V. Assignments

A. Appropriate Readings

Students will read the text "Criminal Evidence" as well as legal updates and supplemental assigned readings.

B. Writing Assignments

Students will prepare written reports on selected criminal evidence topics and complete essay questions.

C. Expected Outside Assignments

Students will be assigned papers on criminal evidence, and requiring out of class research.

D. Specific Assignments that Demonstrate Critical Thinking

Students will examine the rules, types and degrees of criminal evidence; critique methods used in the judicial process and analyze prosecution decisions and interpretation of individual reports in classroom discussions and in assigned reports.

VI. Methods of Evaluation

Traditional Classroom Delivery

Classroom Participation
Written Assignments
Mid-term and Final Examination

Online Delivery

Same as face-to-face instruction including a variety of evaluation methods such as: research papers, asynchronous and synchronous discussions (chat/forum), exercises/assignments, online quizzes and exams, and postings to online website.

Hybrid Delivery

All quizzes and exams will be administered during the in person class time. Students will be expected to complete online assignments and activities equivalent to in class assignments and activities for the online portion of the course. Electronic communication, both synchronous and asynchronous will be evaluated for participation and to maintain effective communication between instructor and students.

VII. Methods of Delivery

Check those delivery methods for which, this course has been separately approved by the Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee.

Traditional Classroom Delivery Correspondence Delivery

Hybrid Delivery Online Delivery

Traditional Classroom Instruction

Lecture format, video, overhead

Online Delivery

Online instruction will be utilized. 51 hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Online delivery will consist of participation in forum-based discussions and posts, web links, email communications, lecture posts, exams and online lectures. Adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

Hybrid Delivery

A combination of traditional classroom and online instruction will be utilized. Each semester a minimum of 17 hours, or 1/3 of the lecture hours, will be taught face-to-face by the instructor and the remaining hours will be instructed online through the technology platform adopted by the District. Traditional class instruction will consist of exercises/assignments, lectures, visual aids, and practice exercises. Online delivery will consist of exercises/assignments, lecture posts, discussions, adding extra resources and other media sources as appropriate.

VIII. Representative Texts and Supplies

Garland, *Criminal Evidence*, 9th edition, 2024, McGraw Hill, ISBN 9781264296804

IX. Discipline/s Assignment

Administration of Justice, Law

X. Course Status

Current Status: Active

Original Approval Date: 5/15/1990

Revised By Thomas Downing

Curriculum/Academic Standards Committee Revision Date: 03/07/2023