

Administration of Justice (ADMJ) 1504 Legal Aspects of Evidence (3 Units) CSU

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: None

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 or 1501 and ADMJ 1501 strongly recommended.

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of class hours. (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: This course examines rules and types of evidence, chain of custody, searches and seizures, and the legal rules governing its admission and exclusion in the criminal process. The course will also examine witness and suspect interviews, privileged communications, hearsay, and interrogations. Using high-profile criminal cases, seminal research, and innovative forensic advancements, this course focuses on best-practices in identifying, collecting, protecting, and other evidentiary procedures in court. This is an advanced course in the Administration of Justice degree and provides the student with an in-depth understanding of the most fundamental aspect of law enforcement – proving a crime beyond a reasonable doubt. This course contains subject matter that can be distressing or otherwise challenging to students. The course material is required to prepare students for the demands of criminal justice careers. Examinations of crimes, crime scenes, court legal opinions, case history and other relevant subject matter including the use of debate or other argumentation is necessary to advance the academic and legal education of this course. C-ID: AJ 124

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text such as: Hails, Judy. *Criminal Evidence*, 8th ed, Cengage Learning, 2014.

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Identify and differentiate various types of evidence,
2. Define and describe key rules of evidence, and
3. Critically evaluate and apply the rules of evidence to specific case facts.
4. Understand the process and actions required to testify in court.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I	Rules of Evidence
	A. What is evidence
	B. Proof and burden of proof
	C. Reasons for rules of evidence
	D. The evidence code
	E. Application of rules of evidence

- F. Doctrine of judicial notice
- G. Presumption

Unit II

Types of Evidence

- A. Relevant evidence
- B. Direct and circumstantial evidence
 - a. Weight of evidence
 - b. Circumstantial evidence
 - c. Character
 - d. Other acts of evidence
 - e. Offers to plead guilty
 - f. Circumstantial evidence involving the victim
- b. Testimonial and real evidence
- D. Substitutes for evidence

Unit III

Witness

- A. Competency of witness
- B. Impeachment
- C. Rehabilitation
- D. Corroboration
- E. Memory failures
- F. Unavailable witness
- G. Types of witnesses
- H. Opinion rule

Unit IV

Privileged Communications

- A. Basis for privileges
- B. Commonly used privileges
- C. Attorney-client privilege
- D. Privilege of official information
- E. Media reporter privilege

Unit V

Privilege against Self-incrimination

- A. Scope of privilege against self-incrimination
- B. Miranda warnings
- C. Sequential interrogations
- D. Special situations
- E. Post-arraignment confessions

Unit VI

Hearsay

- A. Basic hearsay principles
- B. The hearsay rule
- C. Exceptions
- D. Admissions and confessions

Unit VII

Chain of Custody

- A. Definition
- B. Documentation
- C. Custody
- D. Control
- E. Analysis
- F. Disposition

- Unit VIII Identification Procedures
- A. Definitions used for identification procedures
 - B. Fourth Amendment rights during identification procedures
 - C. Fifth Amendment rights during identification procedures
 - D. Sixth Amendment rights during identification procedures
 - E. Due process rights during identification procedures
 - F. Use of identification testimony at trial

- Unit IX Search and Seizure
- A. History and development of Fourth Amendment
 - B. Definitions
 - C. Warrant requirements
 - D. Exclusionary rule
 - E. Impermissible methods of obtaining evidence and apprehending suspects
 - F. Arrests and jail searches
 - G. Plain view, consent, and administrative warrants
 - H. Electronic

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

- 1. Studying textbook (s)
- 2. Completing required reading including case studies
- 3. Completing required written exercises
- 4. Completing project assignments
- 5. Library research
- 6. Internet research

Methods of Instruction:

- 1. Lectures
- 2. Class discussions
- 3. Audio/Visual presentations
- 4. scenarios
- 5. discussions
- 6. Research and study of materials

Methods of Evaluation:

- 1. Substantial writing assignments including:
 - a. essay exams
 - b. research paper using APA format
- 2. Objective and subjective examinations/quizzes
- 3. Case analysis
- 4. Projects
- 5. Homework assignments
- 6. In class exercises/presentations
- 7. Forum responses and interaction with other students based on assigned readings from criminal justice literature/or internet research

Supplemental Data:

T.O.P. Code:	210500- Administration of Justice
Sam Priority Code:	C: Clearly Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Not Applicable
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not Applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Course is not a part of a cooperative education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	Y: Yes
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	N: No
Discipline:	Administration of Justice