

# 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 correspondence 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

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 juvenile proceedings.
10. Demonstrate knowledge of hearsay and its exceptions.
11. Demonstrate knowledge of competency.
12. Demonstrate knowledge of search and seizure concepts.

13. Demonstrate knowledge of line-ups, show-ups, and use of photos.
14. Demonstrate knowledge of communication, note taking and report writing.
15. Demonstrate knowledge of crime scene search, collecting, and preservation of evidence.
16. 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. Objectives from the "California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training".
  1. Concepts of evidence
    - a. Direct and circumstantial
    - b. Fruits, instruments, and contraband
  2. Effects of the exclusionary rule, civil rights, inadmissible evidence and false arrest.
  3. Main purpose of the rules of evidence (dependable, credible and trustworthy)
    - a. The judges responsibility
    - b. The jury responsibility
    - c. Scope of the rules of evidence
  4. Types of evidence
    - a. Evidence
    - b. Direct evidence
    - c. Circumstantial evidence
    - d. Best evidence rule
    - e. Fruits at the crime
    - f. Instrumentalities of a crime
    - g. Contraband
  5. Offering evidence in court
    - a. Proof
    - b. Impeach
    - c. Rehabilitate
    - d. Assist in determining sentence
  6. Minimal tests for admissibility
    - a. Must be relevant
    - b. Must be competently presented
    - c. Must be legally obtained
  7. Privileged communication rule
    - a. Husband and wife
    - b. Attorney and client
    - c. Clergyman and confessor
    - d. Physician and patient
  8. The legal definition of the term subpoena
  9. Subpoena points
    - a. Who may exercise the power
    - b. Who is subject to the power
    - c. How a California is enforced

10. Burden of proof
  - a. Corpus Delicti
  - b. Jurisdiction and Venue
  - c. The law as it pertains to juvenile proceeding
11. Hearsay rule
12. Exception to the hearsay rule
13. Competency
14. Lawful search
15. Lawful vehicle search
16. Legal shop-up, line up, and use of photographs for identification
17. Methods for questioning suspects and witnesses
  - a. Legal aspect of Maranda
  - b. Planning for questioning and interviews
18. Good field notes
  - a. Basic report writing
  - b. Greater degree of accuracy
  - c. Types of information
19. Good report writing
  - a. Uses
  - b. Characteristics
20. Identification, collection, and preservation of evidence
21. Professional courtroom demeanor and appearance
22. Preparing to give 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.

### **Correspondence Delivery**

Same as face to face with the exception of the desired use of proctored exams and exclusion of participation in classroom activities. Students will be expected to complete assignments and activities equivalent to in-class assignments and activities. Written correspondence and a minimum of six opportunities for feedback will be utilized to maintain effective communication between instructor and student.

## **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.

### **Correspondence Delivery**

Assigned readings, instructor-generated typed handouts, typed lecture materials, exercises and assignments equal to face to face instructional delivery. Written correspondence and a minimum of six opportunities for feedback will be utilized to maintain effective communication between instructor and student.

## **VIII. Representative Texts and Supplies**

Gardner & Anderson, *Criminal Evidence: Principles and Cases*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2016, Cengage, ISBN: 9781285459004

## **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: 10/02/2018

Reviewed for IPR, no changes recommended: 09/21/2021