



WELCOME TO LEGAL ASPECTS OF EVIDENCE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers the historical and contemporary issues surrounding criminal evidence. The course represents a strong scholarly approach to the study of criminal evidence and is peppered with criminal case examples and highlights of criminal statutes and case law. This course will explore the historical evolution of American jurisprudence to contemporary courts and issues. It is designed to help you, the student, develop a working knowledge of criminal evidence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Trace and discuss the evolution of evidence
2. Identify and differentiate the various types of evidence
3. Identify and describe the key rules of evidence
4. Explain the rules connected with the introduction of evidence at trial
5. Evaluate and apply the rules of evidence to specific case facts
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the chain of custody for any type of evidence
7. Discuss the various procedures available for identifying evidence at trial

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain the legal reasoning for the development of rules of evidence
2. Analyze a case scenario and demonstrate the proper rules of evidence that apply to that case

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Criminal Evidence, 2nd Edition by Marjie T. Britz

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STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Need help with this course? Student Success Center peer tutors are ready for you!

- Link to <http://deanza.edu/studentsuccess/>.
- Join the SSC Resources Canvas site - <https://deanza.instructure.com/enroll/MAF7Y8>
- Link to SSC Welcome Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHgTex-Rrlo>

- Tutoring: Go to the SSC homepage and click on the yellow link to join SSC Resources Canvas. Once there, click on Modules, then the SSC area for your course to see SSC Zoom tutoring links and schedules.

- Workshops, group tutoring and group study: See SSC Resources for current schedules and links. Most people learn better with others...give it a try!

- Support for online learning: Speak with a friendly peer tutor or SSC staff member about motivation and organization strategies for online classes. We get it and are going through the same things, so let's support each other!

- Need after-hours or weekend tutoring? See the Online Tutoring page for information about NetTutor (via Canvas) or Smarthinking (via MyPortal).

REPETITIVE COURSE WITH SUBSTANDARD GRADE

California Community College Board of Governors has revised Title 5 and will not fund students who persistently fail a course with a grade of D, F, No Pass (NP), No Credit (NC), or Withdraw (W).

ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Quizzes (4 x 10 points each)	40 points
Midterm Examination	40 points
Final Examination	90 points
Class Attendance/Participation	10 points

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GRADING SCALE

The below grading scale will be used to determine course grade.

A+= 180-175	B+ = 162-157	C+ = 144-136	D+ = 126-121	F = 108
A = 174-169	B = 156-151	C = 135-127	D = 120-115	
A- = 168-163	B- = 150-145	C- = N/A	D- = 114-109	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend class lectures via Zoom.
2. Read assigned lecture notes, handouts, videos or articles and suggested resources as provided by the instructor prior to each class session.
3. Demonstrate a desire to participate and learn.
4. Successfully complete exams within deadlines given by instructor.

INSTRUCTOR

I have been a deputy district attorney with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office since 1999, spending almost half of that time prosecuting gang homicide cases. I have prosecuted thousands of cases ranging from DUI and misdemeanors to general felonies, white collar crime, gang, and murder cases.

In addition to teaching at De Anza, I teach at the San Jose Police Academy, the San Jose Police Department Community Service Officer Academy, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and for the California District Attorney's Association (CDAA).

You may email me at alemamir@fhda.edu or aalem@dao.sccgov.org. For office hours, I will meet with you via Zoom at a time and date agreeable.

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SCHEDULE

WEEK	CLASS TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT(S)
1 6/30/22	Evolution of the law of Criminal Evidence; Federalism, Court Systems and Criminal Justice Process	Review Syllabus; Read Chapter 1, Read Chapter 2
2 7/7/22	The different forms of evidence; Search and Seizure law	Read Chapters 3 and 4; Quiz #1 – multiple choice – covering Chapters 1&2
3 7/14/22	The Exclusionary Rule and the 4 th Amendment; Warrantless Searches and Confessions; Guest Speaker Patrick Coughlin	Read Chapters 5, 6 and 7; Quiz #2 – multiple choice – covering Chapters 3&4
4 7/21/22	Midterm Exam; Qualifications and Impeachment of Witnesses, Examination of Witnesses; Guest Speaker David Boyd	Midterm Exam – covering weeks 1-3 (Chapters 1-7) – essay/short answer; Read Chapters 8 & 9.
5 7/28/22	Hearsay; Privilege; Documentary and Scientific Evidence Cyber Evidence and Demonstrative Evidence	Read Chapters 10, 11, 12 & 13; Quiz #3 – multiple choice – covering Chapters 5,6 & 7; Quiz #4 – multiple choice – covering Chapters 8,9 &10
6 8/4/22	No Class	Final Examination – short answer/essay - cumulative