



CJ 2350

Division: Social and Behavioral Science

Department: Criminal Justice

Course: CJ 2350

Title: Laws of Evidence

Catalog Description:

This course examines the laws and rules pertaining to the use of criminal evidence in the trial process. The student will be exposed to the various sources of these rules at the Federal and State levels and learn how the American system of case law affects the development of evidence law.

General Education Requirements: N/A

Semesters Offered: Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Prerequisites: CJ 1330, Criminal Law

Corequisites: N/A

Justification:

This course is required for an associate degree in Criminal Justice. This course also satisfies lower division requirements for a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and is transferable to Southern Utah University, Weber State University, and Utah Valley State College.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will know:

- the history and evolution of evidence law
- the basic standards of evidence
- the sources of evidence law
- basic structure of the Uniform Rules of Evidence, Federal Rules of Evidence, and the Utah Rules of Evidence
- the relationship of Appellate court decisions (case law) to the rules of evidence.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- discuss Evidence Law using appropriate terminology and language
- interpret the rules of evidence and articulate differences in State and Federal rules
- analyze case law and explain the application of the rules of evidence
- write and submit a brief of an appellate court case which interprets and applies the various rules of evidence.

Content:

CJ 2350

This course will include:

- History and Evolution of Evidence of Law
- Comparison of Federal, Uniform, and State Rules of evidence
- Relevancy, Materiality, Competency of Evidence
- Judicial Notice
- Evidence at Trial
- Documentary Evidence
- Witness Testimony
- Physical Evidence
- Documentary Evidence
- Scientific Evidence
- Hearsay Evidence
- Privileged Communications

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students will read from a text book and assigned supplemental resources. Students will take vocabulary and content based quizzes. Discussion based questions are designed to elicit constructive and critical responses which demonstrate the students' grasp of the material.

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

Students will be instructed on how to write a properly formatted brief of an appellate court case. These cases often illustrate the judicial branch's interpretation of the rules of evidence. These assignments serve to demonstrate the students' understanding of the subject matter and promote a higher understanding of the actual workings of the criminal trial process.

Key Performance Indicators:

- four to five quizzes (short answer): 10-20% of final grade
- eight to ten case briefs (preinstructed format): 40-50% of final grade
- final exam (take home, research based): 40-50% final grade

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

- *Principles of Criminal Law*, current edition, Wallace, Roberson, Allyn and Bacon Publishing.
- *Utah Criminal and Traffic Code*, current or recent edition, Lexis Nexis Publishing.
- *Merriam Webster's Dictionary of Law*, current edition or equivalent reference text, Merriam Webster Publishing.

Optimum Class Size: 25

Maximum Class Size: 35

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

Eldon Barnes, MSW, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Criminal Justice Department:

, , , Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social and Behavioral Science Division:

Sue Dalley, M.S., Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)