

# LAWS OF EVIDENCE – Fall 2006

## Criminal Justice 2350-50

Instructor: Ryan Shaum

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Thursday 5:00 – 7:20 P.M.

Room: MCD 102

Credits: Three

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## SYLLABUS

### OBJECTIVES:

1. gain an overall understanding of the Rules of Evidence as applied in criminal cases.
2. discuss differences between various state and federal rules of evidence.
3. analyze the different types of evidence that may be used in the criminal justice system.
4. apply rules of evidence to a variety of evidentiary settings within the criminal justice arena.
5. develop a working knowledge of primary rules in the area of burden of proof, relevance, witnesses and hearsay.

### REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Text:** Criminal Evidence 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., Judy Hails Kaci; Thomson, Wadsworth Publishing 2005.
2. **Preparation:** Class lectures and discussions will, for the most part, follow the reading schedule provided. Students are expected to read each weeks reading assignment prior to coming to class. Class discussions will not always cover all the material in the reading assignment; however, you will be expected to know the material for testing purposes.

Class discussion is highly encouraged. You may be given “extra credit” points for substantial participation in weekly class discussions, at the instructor’s discretion. Current events will be discussed as they arise. Students are expected to keep up to date on local, regional and national stories related to criminal law.

3. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend classes weekly. Attendance will be excused for special or exceptional circumstances, and only with prior approval from the instructor. Students are also expected to come to class on time. Unexcused absences and excessive tardiness will affect your grade.

4. **Exams:** There will be a total of three exams given. Exams may consist of a combination of essay, short answer, fill in the blank, multiple choice and true/false or matching questions. Exam questions will be developed from reading material, lectures, presentations and subject matter discussed in class. Each exam will be worth a total of 100 points, with the sum of all three exams making up 75% of your final grade. Make-up exams have the same limitations and requirements as the attendance policy stated above.
  
5. **Quizzes:** From time to time a quiz may be given at the beginning of class covering the subject matter for that day. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and shall be deducted from the next exam's total points.
  
6. **Evidentiary Analysis Paper:** Each student is expected to attend an evidentiary hearing in the Fifth District Court. This hearing may be a bench or jury trial, a preliminary hearing, suppression hearing or evidentiary hearing on a probation violation. Students can get an update on the court's schedule through the instructor. Students will then write a paper no less than five pages in length, identifying the hearing they attended, the evidentiary issues presented and a personal analysis of the evidence presented. The paper will be due no later than the last regular class period of the semester. A total of 100 points possible will be given for the observation/assessment. This assignment will make up the final 25% of the course grade. At the instructor's discretion, students may be allowed to do a research paper on a specific evidence issue in place of the observation and assessment exercise.

**7. Grading:**

Exam #1 = 100 Points  
 Exam #2 = 100 Points  
 Exam #3 = 100 Points  
 Paper = 100 Points

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Total points for course = 400 Points

A = 372-400	B- = 320-331	D+ = 268-279
A- = 360-371	C+ = 308-319	D = 252-267
B+ = 348-359	C = 292-307	D- = 240-251
B = 332-347	C- = 280-291	F = 239 & below

8. **Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability or think you might have a disability and would like accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Services Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine eligibility based on your professional documentation and determine the appropriate accommodations related to your disability.

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b><u>WEEK</u></b>		<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>CHAPTER</u></b>
1	(8/24)	Introduction	1
2	(8/31)	The Court Process	2
3	(9/07)	Types of Evidence	3
4	(9/14)	Direct and Circumstantial Evidence	4
5	(9/21)	Witnesses	5
6	(9/28)	<b>EXAM #1</b>	
7	(10/5)	Crime Scene & Documentary Evidence (Presenter?)	6 & 7
8	(10/12)	<b>SEMESTER BREAK</b>	
9	(10/19)	Hearsay and Its Exceptions	8
10	(10/26)	Privileged Communications	9
11	(11/02)	Search and Seizure	10
12	(11/09)	<b>EXAM #2</b>	
13	(11/16)	Arrest & Warrantless Searches	11 & 12
14	(11/23)	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
15	(11/30)	Searches continued & Self Incrimination	13 & 14
16	(12/07)	Identification & Preparing for Court	15 & 16
17	(12/14)	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

