GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 202 – CRIMINAL EVIDENCE

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

AOJ 202 Criminal Evidence 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

A “C” grade or higher in AOJ 200 or equivalent.

3. Catalog Description

This course examines categories of evidence and legal rules governing its admission and exclusion in the criminal process. Discussions will include the origin, development, philosophy and constitutional basis of evidence; constitutional and procedural considerations affecting arrest, search and seizure, and custodial interrogations; kinds and degrees of evidence and rules governing admissibility; and judicial decisions involving criminal evidence.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Identify and differentiate various types of evidence;
2. Define and describe key rules of evidence;
3. Critically evaluate and apply the rules of evidence to specific case facts;
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the rules of evidence and terminology contained in the Evidence Code;
5. Formulate appropriate procedures and techniques to maintain the value and admissibility of evidence;
6. Identify, critically analyze, and develop solutions to evidentiary problems;
7. Utilize technology appropriate to the discipline;
8. Compose written reports for case file inclusion and courtroom presentation;
9. Explain how professionalism, leadership, ethics, and moral standards relate to the pursuit of a career in public safety;
10. Explore career streams in criminal justice and public safety;
11. Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively in a group setting;
12. Conduct research appropriate to the discipline.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standardclassroom.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Access to a computer with Internet capability.

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7. Course Content

1. Rules of evidence.
2. Types of evidence.
3. Witness competency.
4. Privileged communications.
5. Privilege against self-incrimination.
6. Hearsay.
7. Chain of custody.
8. Identification procedures.
9. Search and seizure.
10. Historical review of English common law and the U.S. Constitution as it evolved and applies to current laws of evidence and admissibility.
11. Emphasis on legal justification for warrantless searches, interrogation and the Miranda Rule.
12. An emphasis on common legal scenarios related to criminal evidence and law enforcement, including an analysis of applicable statutory codes.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture.

b. Discussion.

c. Facilitated collaborative learning.

d. Case studies.

e. Instructional videos.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Quizzes that measure student’s ability to apply principles related to the rules of evidence.
2. Case analysis including the analysis of the applicable evidence code and the correct elements of the code.
3. Homework assignments, in-class exercises and presentations that critically analyze and develop solutions to evidentiary problems.
4. Written assignments that demonstrate students’ ability to evaluate and apply the rules of evidence to specific case facts.
5. Exams including a comprehensive written final exam, which measure students’ ability to apply principles contained in the Evidence Code.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Students will be required to read text and supplementary materials.

b. Legal research written project that implements the analysis of statutory codes, burdens of proof, criminal defenses, legal justifications, and other principles related to criminal law.

11. Texts

Required Text(s):

1. Rutledge, Devallis. *Investigative Constitutional Law: Principles for Searches, Seizures, Interrogation and Identification.* San Clemente, CA: LawTech Publishing, 2010.
2. Lippman, M. *Criminal Evidence*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publishing. 2015
3. Hails, Judy. *Criminal Evidence*, 8th edition. Cengage Learning. 2014

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Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Describe the historical development of the rules of evidence their ethics and their application in state and federal court.
2. Describe the adversarial process in the presentation of evidence and compare and contrast the roles of the prosecutor, defense counsel, judge and jury.
3. Describe the different types of evidence and the rules regarding testimony, writings, material objects and explain the difference between evidence and their admissibility.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 13, 2019