

MWF 1:00 p.m. -1:50 p.m. - Udvar Hazy, 203

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Success is less a matter of personal charisma and high I.Q. as it is a matter of discipline, hard work, and personal motivation. In other words; give me a hard working “average Joe” who is dedicated, focused, and well disciplined, over a lazy genius any day.

BASIC COURSE DESCRIPTION: The student who is interested in a career in law enforcement, corrections, or the many other disciplines in the criminal justice field; or is interested in human interaction and relationships and the American legal system; will find this class to be of great benefit. The academic discipline of criminal justice is a combined product of psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, criminology, law, political science, human behavior, etc..

While this particular course specifically deals with the principles and rules of law-and-order, emphasizing evidentiary problems and issues related to criminal cases, it also emphasizes *the need and purpose for law in our lives*. This course may therefore incorporate the use of lectures, videos, guest speakers, assigned texts, and practical demonstration to make those points. This course will provide a foundation for those pursuing a career in the criminal justice field and focuses on those who may anticipate a career in law enforcement, (specifically as it relates to the field of criminal investigator). This course provides a solid foundation and understanding of the founding of America and the legal system that supports this great governmental *experiment*.

Primary TEXT: ***“Criminal Evidence - An Introduction”***, Second edition; John L. Worrall, Craig Hemmens, and Lisa S. Nored, published by Oxford University Press, 2012.

Secondary TEXT: ***“Criminal Evidence”***, by Judy Hails, (J.D., L.L.M.) 7th edition; Wadsworth - Cengage Learning - 2012.

Reference TEXT: ***“Law In Our Lives - An Introduction”***, 2nd edition, David O. Friedrichs; Roxbury Publishing - 2006.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Students will be exposed to the origin and purpose of law, the process of law and the function and importance of criminal evidence, it’s legal application, and the legal exceptions and exclusions that allow fairness in practice. The student be expected to think critically about the trial process, evidentiary issues, and constitutional limitations and privileges. The understanding of these issues will provide the skills and knowledge necessary for the next phase of the student’s criminal justice career. At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to openly discuss:

- The relationship between human behavior, society, government, and the concept of “law and order”.
- The concept of American law; the U.S. Constitution, (specifically the Bill of Rights); the trial process; substantive law vs. procedural law; and civil law vs. criminal law.
- The concept of identifying, collecting, preserving and presenting evidence; and legal “foundation”.
- The importance of testimony as evidence; “lay” vs. “expert” witnesses; and the Hearsay rule.
- Factors of “Competency”; the jury selection process; and impeachment.
- Search and Seizure Rules; direct evidence vs. circumstantial evidence; and “admissibility”.

EXPECTATIONS:

(1) Classroom **attendance** and participation is a necessary component of this course, (i.e., to understand the legal “*privileges against testifying*”, talked about in chapter 10, it will have been necessary to understand the *admissibility and importance of testimonial evidence* discussed in chapter 4, weeks earlier);

(2) All reading assignments should be completed ahead of the corresponding lecture. *The lecture is meant to clarify and expound upon the basics of the text.* Also, guest speakers and other outside resources may be used during the semester and class lecture time may as a result be limited. Therefore, the student is responsible for all assigned reading for testing purposes regardless of whether such material was discussed in the classroom.

(3) Short outside research or participation projects may be assigned as extra credit on an “as-need-basis”.

(4) “Pop” quizzes on the reading material may be given periodically and said grade will be included in the participation portion of your overall grade.

(5) Note-taking is *highly recommended* due to the fact that a great deal of “case law” and material from several additional texts may be used by the instructor to make points discussed in the main text.

(6) Respect to discussion leader and/or students asking questions is mandatory.

(7) Excused absences: While this instructor fully understands that each person’s life is unique and complicated, (I can be sympathetic in that regard), there must be limitations and I will expect you to regulate your own circumstances as much as is possible, and to give me prior notice on a priority basis.

In return, you may expect of me that I will never waste your time. I will commit to you that I will continue to study, research, and plan meaningful information for you. I will do all in my power to make this class as interesting as possible and I will work with you to the extent that I am able in achieving the grade and information you need. I will especially be attentive to your needs in cases of family emergency within the limitations set by institution policy. If you should come down with a particularly contagious cold or flu I will reward you for sparing the rest of the class the same misery by working with you through email.

CLASS RULES: **(#1): Respect** for those responsible by law for the conduct and substance of this course, mainly the instructor. Though class participation is appreciated and encourage, the instructor is ultimately responsible for covering a certain amount of academic material and will control all class activity. Unnecessary disruption of class schedule or substance is legal grounds for dismissal. ***Respect** for the course time line and curriculum; meaning that if you still have questions about a particular topic that may have only been briefly addressed in the classroom you may take it up with the instructor in out-of-class time. ***Respect** for other members of this particular class; meaning there will be no tolerance for open disrespect of one’s opinions, beliefs, nationality, race, religion, gender, politics, etc. This will be closely monitored and controlled by the instructor as well.

(#2): Interruptions during class may result in your being asked to leave the class and your participation grade being lowered. Cellular telephone calls and text messaging during class is strictly PROHIBITED.

Library / Testing / Writing / Tutoring Centers: (1) <http://library.dixie.edu/info/hours.html> (2) <http://new.dixie.edu/testing> - (3) http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php - (4) <http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring>

Semester Calendar: <http://new.dixie.edu/reg/?page=calender>

Administrative Withdrawals

It is the policy at DSC that students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting or to contact the instructor regarding absence prior to the first scheduled class meeting may be withdrawn by the instructor to allow enrollment by the other students. If a student fails to attend class at all during the first week or two, an administrative withdrawal card will be filled out and the student will be officially removed from the class rolls before the end of the third week of the term. Therefore, class rolls are important.

GRADING:	Attendance	10%	Participation	10%
	Examination #1	20%	Examination # 2	20%
	Examination # 3	20%	Examination #4	20%

Final grades will be determined on a percentage basis:

A = 93%, A- = 90%, B+=87%, B=83%, B-=80%, C+=77%, C= 73%, C-=70, D=68, F=67% and below.

ATTENDANCE: Prompt attendance is critical in the legal field. Attorneys, law enforcement, and witnesses have been sanctioned, fined or even jailed when they failed to appear or show up promptly at a designated time. It is a sign of maturity and discipline. Students of this class will be held to the same standard as a component of the overall learning experience. Attendance will be excused for special or exceptional circumstances only with prior approval of the instructor or official documentation after the fact. Un-excused absences and excessive tardiness will affect your “participation” grade. Make-up exams will be considered only under the same limitations and requirements as the attendance policy.

DISCLAIMER: Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice as deemed appropriate by the instructor. ***The reading and lecture schedule will remain flexible in order to facilitate guest speakers, demonstrations, outside resource opportunity, and a learning pace at which the majority of the class is comfortable.***

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Law and order is the protector of social success. The “rule of law” is based upon trust but government is power and power is corruptible. It is therefore imperative that “law enforcement” be held to a high standard of trust, and integrity. The courts deal with a lack of personal integrity by implementation of precise punishment and sanction of certain social privileges. Those in the criminal justice system learn know that strong discipline and personal integrity is expected of them. Plagiarism and/or cheating of any kind by any student at this level will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. No form of academic dishonesty can be tolerated. **Plagiarism defined:** The non-attributed inclusion of another’s work as the student’s own, in whole or in part.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY - Failure to comply with academic integrity, honesty, and behavior standards may result in course failure or administrative withdrawal from the class. The law permits the instructor to dismiss without discussion any assignment or test in which cheating is suspected.

Recap - Disruptive behavior is defined as any behavior that interferes with the teacher’s ability to teach or the learning of other students. Such action in accordance with law is as follows:

1. A verbal request to comply with behavioral expectations of the class.
2. One written ‘warning’ informing you that you have not made the required behavioral adjustment.
3. Administrative withdrawal.

DISABILITIES: “Proper documentation of a disability is required in order to receive services or accommodations. Any student eligible for and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to a disability must provide a letter of accommodation to their professor from the Disability Resource Center within the first two weeks of the beginning of classes. Please contact the Center on the main campus to follow through with the documentation process. The Disability Resource Center is located in the Student Services Center, or you may call for an appointment and further information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 652-7516.