

Technical College of the Lowcountry
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CRJ 236
CRIMINAL EVIDENCE

Course Description

This course is a study of the established rules of evidence from arrest to release in the administration of criminal justice. Prerequisite: CRJ 101, RDG 100.
3 Cr (3 lect/pres, 0 lab, 0 other)

Course Focus

Students will be introduced to the identifying, collecting, preserving, and submitting criminal evidence. This course will provide the student with the requirements for using evidence within the criminal justice system.

Text and References

Criminal Evidence, 1st Edition, Britz, M. T., Pearson Education, Inc., 2008
ISBN 10: 0-205-43971-3

Course Goals

The following list of course goals will be addressed in the course. These goals are directly related to the performance objectives. (*designates a CRUCIAL goal)

1. Identify a crime scene
2. Preserve the evidence at a crime scene
3. Search a crime scene
4. Collect evidence at a crime scene
5. Complete proper forms for submission of evidence
6. Explain the history of law and the legal process
7. Know the history of the rules of evidence
8. Understand the Uniform Rules of Evidence
9. Discuss the concept of judicial review
10. Identify the components of the criminal process
11. List and discuss the members of the court
12. Explain the appeal process
13. Determine the types of evidence
14. Contrast guilty actions and guilty mind
15. Define circumstantial evidence and direct evidence
16. Distinguish between the four general areas of judicial notice

17. Determine when prior bad acts may be evidence
18. Debate the right to privacy
19. Distinguish between reasonable suspicious and probable cause
20. Understand the different type of searches
21. List and discuss the different types of warrants
22. Define the requirements for a search warrant
23. Compare and contrast plain view verse plain feel
24. Debate *Terry v. Ohio*
25. Understand the importance of the “fruits of a poisonous tree” doctrine
26. Define the exclusionary
27. Explain exceptions to the exclusionary rule
28. Debate *Mapp v. Ohio*
29. Distinguish between motions and objections
30. Discuss documentary and scientific evidence
31. Discuss the rights guaranteed by the 5th Amendment
32. Explain *Miranda v. Arizona*
33. Identify when the 5th Amendment does not apply
34. Understand incriminating statements and confessions
35. List the qualifications of a witness
36. Discuss witness impeachment
37. List and discuss the types of witness
38. Analyze the steps in examining a witness
39. Define hearsay
40. Analyze the admission of hearsay evidence
41. Understand the history of privileged information
42. Determine privileged information
43. Define demonstrative evidence
44. Compare traditional protections of privacy and upcoming changes
45. Discuss the impact of the USA PATRIOT Act

Student Contributions

Each student will spend at least 6 hours per week preparing for class. Attendance is critical in this class. There will be 3 quizzes, and a midterm examination. All quizzes and the midterm will be on Blackboard outside of the class time. It is the responsibility of the student to take the quizzes and midterm within the specified due dates. The syllabus is subject to change. Each student will participate in a group, investigate a mock crime scene, and provide a presentation of the evidence process. All changes will be discussed and students will be accountable for such changes.

Course Evaluation

Your performance objective and exams will be translated to points and the points to grades. There are 100 possible points and grades will be earned as follows:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69

Tests and Quizzes

There are 3 quizzes, a midterm examination, and a final examination. Each quiz consists of 25 multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in the blank, and essay questions. Each quiz is valued at 5 points for a total of 15% of the final grade.

The midterm examination is a comprehensive examination of previous lecture and consists of multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in the blank, and essay questions. It is valued at 20% of the final grade.

Class Participation

Each student is required to participate in the classroom discussion. Discussions will develop from the weekly reading and current legal trends. Classroom discussion is valued at 15% of the final grade.

Group Project

Each student will participate in a group. Each group will investigate a crime scene, collect the evidence, and submit the proper forms. The group will conduct a presentation of their findings before the class. The group project is valued at 50% of the final grade.

Approved by: *Kenneth Flick* Developed/Revised: 12/2012

Ken Flick, Division Dean for Business/Industrial Division

ADA STATEMENT

The Technical College of the Lowcountry provides access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation, contact the counselor for students with disabilities at (843) 525-8228 during the first ten business days of the academic term.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

There is no tolerance at TCL for academic dishonesty and misconduct. The College expects all students to conduct themselves with dignity and to maintain high standards of responsible citizenship.

It is the student's responsibility to address any questions regarding what might constitute academic misconduct to the course instructor for further clarification.

The College adheres to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System. Copies of the Student Code and Grievance Procedure are provided in the *TCL Student Handbook*, the Division Office, and the Learning Resources Center.

ATTENDANCE

The College's statement of policy indicates that students must attend ninety percent of total class hours or they will be in violation of the attendance policy.

- Students not physically attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Students taking an online/internet class must sign in **and** communicate with the instructor within the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester to indicate attendance in the class. Students not attending class during the first ten calendar days from the start of the semester must be dropped from the class for NOT ATTENDING.
- Reinstatement requires the signature of the division dean.

In the event it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from the course OR if a student stops attending class, it is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete the necessary paperwork. Withdrawing from class may have consequences associated with financial aid and time to completion.

When a student exceeds the allowed absences, the student is in violation of the attendance policy. The instructor **MUST** withdraw the student with a grade of "W", "WP", or "WF" depending on the date the student exceeded the allowed absences and the student's progress up to the last date of attendance

or

under extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the class, allow the student to continue in the class and make-up the work. This exception must be documented at the time the allowed absences are exceeded.

Absences are counted from the first day of class. There are no "excused" absences. All absences are counted, regardless of the reason for the absence.

- A student must take the final exam or be excused from the final exam in order to earn a non-withdrawal grade.

A copy of TCL's **STATEMENT OF POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-307 CLASS ATTENDANCE (WITHDRAWAL)** is on file in the Division Office and in the Learning Resources Center.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER

In case weather conditions are so severe that operation of the College may clearly pose a hardship on students and staff traveling to the College, notification of closing will be made through the following radio and television stations: WYKZ 98.7, WGCO 98.3, WGZO 103.1, WFXH 106.1, WWVV 106.9, WLOW 107.9, WGZR 104.9, WFXH 1130 AM, WLVH 101.1, WSOK 1230 AM, WAEV 97.3, WTOC TV, WTGS TV, WJWJ TV, and WSAV TV. Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp

Emergency Text Message Alert

Students, faculty and staff are highly encouraged to opt in to the Emergency Text Message Alert System. Participants receive immediate notification of emergency events and weather cancelations via text messaging on their cell phones. Participants can also opt in to receive non-emergency news and announcements. Go to www.tcl.edu. On the homepage, click on “emergency TextAlert at TCL” and fill out the form or go to www.tcl.edu/textalert.asp