

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** ADMJ 106 **TITLE:** Legal Aspects of Evidence **C-ID:** AJ 124

Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only

Recommended Preparation:

Completion of or concurrent enrollment in ADMJ 100 and Eligibility for ENGL 100, or Eligibility for ENGL 105

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

This course examines evidence and legal rules governing its admission or exclusion in the criminal process. Discussion points include the origin, development, philosophy, and constitutional basis of evidence, as well as the considerations affecting arrest, search, and seizure.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

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

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

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

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

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. Role that evidence plays in a criminal trial and prosecution
 - A. Purpose of offering evidence
 - B. Evidence vs. proof
 - C. Four major types of physical evidence
 - D. Direct and circumstantial evidence
2. Searches and Seizures
 - A. Warrantless Search and Seizure
 - B. Vehicle Search
 - C. Obtaining and Executing a Search Warrant
 - D. Body Searches
3. Handling of Evidence
 - A. Collection of Evidence
 - B. Types of Evidence
 - C. Chain of Custody
 - D. Admission or Exclusion of Evidence
 - a. Miranda Rights
 - b. Privilege against Self-incrimination
 - E. Suspect Identification Due Process
4. Reliable witness reports/Witness Competency
 - A. Hearsay rule
 - B. Requirements and exceptions for admitting hearsay evidence
 - a. Spontaneous statements
 - b. Admissions and confessions
 - c. Dying declarations
 - d. Records and officer testimony

5. Privileged Communications

- A. Spouses
- B. Attorney/Client
- C. Clergy
- D. Doctor/Patient

7. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion

8. **REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Presentation and discussion of analysis of examples from the text, describing evidence seizure, handling, and presentation. Discussion will include the importance of protecting constitutional rights and how evidence is used in the trial process.

Reading Assignments:

Required text readings on course material being covered in lecture

Other Outside Assignments:

Identify current events relevant to the course for presentation in the class

9. **REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Quizzes
- C. Written examination

10. **REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Hill, R.. *California Criminal Evidence Guide Workbook*, 11 ed. Halleck Creek, 2015
- B. Hill, R.. *California Criminal Evidence Guide*, 11 ed. Halleck Creek, 2015

Origination Date: August 2021

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: September 2021

Effective Term: Fall 2022

Course Originator: Michelle Schneider