



**West Los Angeles College**  
Department of Administration of Justice  
ADM-Justice 3: Legal Aspects of Evidence

**Syllabus Fall 2013**

**Instructor:** Armando Arenas  
**Office Location:** GC 430  
**Office Hours:** Wed 5:30pm- 6:30pm  
**Phone** (310) 287-4246

**Section:** #8519 CSU Units:3  
**Class Time:** Wed 6:45pm – 9:00pm  
**Class Location** GC 430  
**Email:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A careful study of the kinds and degrees of evidence and the rules governing the admissibility of evidence in court. Section 8519 will be offered in a hybrid format, which requires students to do part of their work online. On-campus meetings will be held at the times shown.

*Required Textbook:*

*Criminal Evidence 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*

*Norman M. Garland*

© 2011 ISBN-978-07-352799-4

**Student Learning Outcome (SLO)**

Students will become familiar with the trial process, types of evidence, the rules related to relevance, hearsay, and qualification of witnesses, privileges, presumptions, judicial notice, and character. In addition, students will learn principles relating to the impact of the Constitution of the United States. Finally, all of these principles will be related to the law enforcement profession.

**Assignments:**

There will be a variety of assignments for this class this semester to accommodate different learning styles. All assignments must be well written, and they will be graded on their composition as well as their content. Etudes (myetudes.org) technology is part of this course and students will be required to participate in online discussions/ assignments. All assignments must be submitted via Etudes and hand delivered at the instructor's request. Follow the directions for logging into Etudes.

<http://www.wlac.edu/online/logininfo.asp>

Therefore, you will need access to a computer with Internet service. Computers are available in the campus library (HLRC), college computer labs with connection to the Internet.

We will at times have class discussions or break into small groups for discussion and class activities, but most of the course will be conveyed in lectures. Note that lectures will draw on assigned readings, but they are designed to complement and expand upon them, not to repeat them.

Guest lecturers may visit class during the semester. Therefore class discussions will not necessarily cover all materials in the book or some chapters at all. However, you are responsible for all assigned readings whether discusses in class or not.

**Assigned Readings:** Students will be expected to read each of the reading assignments assigned per week. Chapters should be read before the start of each week, as there might be an unannounced quiz in class.

**Exams / Quizzes:**

There will be one (1) midterm and one (1) final exam. The exams provide opportunities for students to show their individual mastery of the material. Exams are not reviewable. No one will be permitted to enter / exit the classroom during exams. Students will have six (6) unannounced in class quizzes based on assigned readings and lectures. The classroom doors will be locked.

**In Class Group Exercises:**

The objective of these exercises is to develop problem solving and decision making skills in interpersonal contexts. Field trips may be required.

**Attendance and Participation:** Students are encouraged to attend and participate in class and online discussion via ETUDES. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. Students may be dropped from class for excessive tardiness, for failure to attend class the first day or during the entire first week of the class, or if the total number of absences exceed the twice the number of hours the class meets per week, missed/makeup exams, missed/makeup assignments, late assignments/extensions, reporting absences.

**Discussion Assignments:** Students are required to post an answer to weekly online discussion questions and must reply to at least one post written by a classmate. The discussion assignments will be due every Tuesday before 6pm.

**Writing Assignment:** Students are required to complete a five-page paper discussing a high profile case discussing the issue, evidence, and verdict. Students must cite at least two outside sources. The paper should be written using APA style and doubled spaced, including cover page and reference page. The writing assignment is due on week 10 of the course. The writing assignment topic will be discussed in class on week 1.

**Oral Presentation:**

Students are required to provide a 5-8 minutes PowerPoint presentation on the written assignment.

**Make up Policy:**

No assignments will be accepted after the due date. In class assignments will not be recreated. No early or make up exams.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. “Violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one’s identity for the purpose of enhancing one’s grade” (Board Rule 9803.28).

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit will be at the discretion of the instructor.

**Disability Support Services (DSS) Accommodation Statement\*** Students with disabilities who need any assistance or accommodations should contact the instructor. Students should also contact the Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) center located in SSB 320 or call 310-287-4420.” [dsps@wlaac.edu](mailto:dsps@wlaac.edu)

**Grading Criteria:** A= 275-251 B = 250-226 C = 225-201 D = 200-166 F = 166-0

Quizzes (6 @ 10 points)	60 Points
Online Discussion (15)	45 Points
Attendance / Participation	20 Points
Midterm	40 Points
Final Exam	50 Points
Writing Assignment	30 Points
Oral Presentation	30 Points

**Week 1**

Introductions  
Syllabus review / Student questions

**Week 2**

Chapter 1: Introduction To The Law of Evidence and The Trial Process

**Week 3**

Chapter 3: Evidence- Basic Concepts  
Chapter 2: The Trial Process  
In Class Video: Colin Ferguson

**Week 4**

Chapter 4: Witness Competency and Privileged Communications  
In Class Group Exercise: Work place applications

**Week 5**

Chapter 5: Witnesses-Lay and Expert  
Guest Speaker: Los Angeles Police Department, Guy Golan

**Week 6**

Chapter 6 Credibility and Impeachment  
In Class Group Exercise: Work place applications

**Week 7**

Midterm  
Chapter 7 The Hearsay Rule

**Week 8**

Chapter 8 Admission and Confessions

**Week 9**

Chapter 9 The Exclusionary Rule- Search and Seizure

**Week10**

Exam 3  
Chapter 10 Exclusionary Rule-Identification Procedures  
Writing Assignment Due.

**Week 11**

Chapter 11 Circumstantial Evidence  
Presentations

**Week 12**

Chapter 12 Documentary Evidence  
Presentations

**Week 13**

Chapter 13 Physical Evidence

**Week 14**

Chapter 14 Photographic

**Week 15**

How to Testify Effectively

**Week 16**

Finals