

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

CRMJ 2230 H1 Law of Evidence

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Instructor's Name: Maya Russell, M.A., J.D.

Email:
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Office Hours:
Email Maya to schedule
phone or skype
appointments.

Skype username:
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Hybrid Course

Credit Hours: 3

Lectures and discussions will be accessed using Casper College's Moodle distance platform. Students experiencing technical difficulties with Moodle should go to Casper College's Digital Learning Center website (<http://www.caspercollege.edu/dlc/index.html>) or contact the CC helpdesk at # 307-268-3648.

Course Description:

This course will examine leading rules and principles of exclusion and selection, burden of proof, nature and effect of presumptions, proof of authenticity, and contents of writings; examination, competency, and privilege of witnesses.

Statement of Prerequisites:

Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRMJ 2120).

Casper College General Education Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication

2. Use the scientific method

3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity

4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives

5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities

6. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research

7. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities

8. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

Course Objectives: Successful students in this course will be able to:

1. evaluate the rules of evidence and standards by which the admission of proof at trial is regulated (outcomes # 1 and # 3 above);
2. identify various types of evidence as well as examine the collection, preparation and presentation of evidence in a court of law (outcome # 3 above);
3. investigate the types and roles of witnesses, preparation of witnesses, and become familiar with common witness objections (outcomes #3 and 6 above); and
4. research and summarize controversial evidentiary issues arising from recent current events and legal cases (outcomes # 1 and 6 above).

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Methodology:

This course is a hybrid course utilizing Casper College's Moodle platform. All students are required to read the assigned readings, and complete assigned quizzes/homework in accordance with the course calendar. At the close of the semester, students will be encouraged to complete course evaluations. Student feedback is valuable as the instructor uses course evaluations in determining course methodology.

Class Policies:

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: November 12, 2015.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command:

If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism)

Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication:

Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

ADA Accommodations Policy:

If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Required Text:

Gardner, Thomas, and Terry M. Anderson, *Criminal Evidence, Principles and Cases*, 9th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2016.



Applicable sections of the US Constitution can be found on pages 497-98.

The Federal Rules of Evidence can be found on pages 501-18.

Evaluation Criteria:**Total Points: 650**Grade Distribution:

585-650 points - A
520-584 points - B
455-519 points - C
390-454 points - D
Less 390 points - F

1. 300 points. Examinations.

Two exams: one midterm and one final (150 points each) will be completed in accordance with the course calendar. Exams will be closed-book, timed (60 minute) proctored examinations. No late exams will be accepted.

Students based in Casper must complete their exams at Casper College's Academic Testing Center. Students are responsible for scheduling exams (go to <http://www.caspercollege.edu/testing/>).

Students based outside of Casper must locate an *approved* testing center in their vicinity (go to <http://www.ncta-testing.org/cctc/find.php>) and schedule an appointment in accordance with the course calendar. Students are responsible for any fees and charges associated with testing at a remote center.

2. 150 points. Online Chapter Quizzes. Students must complete fifteen (15) open-book quizzes (worth 10 points each) using the *Criminal Evidence: Principles and Cases* textbook. Quizzes will be completed in Moodle. No late quizzes will be accepted.**3. 50 points. Attendance.**

Attendance is critical for success in this course. Students are responsible for knowing the material presented in class, including material developed through class discussions.

Attendance will be taken at the start of each live Tuesday class. Each missed class will result in a loss of five (5) points.

4. 50 points. **Student-Instructor Conferences.** Two student-instructor conferences (each worth 25 points) will be scheduled during the semester in accordance with the course calendar. Conferences will be via skype or phone and serve as a progress report and an opportunity to meet and discuss matters in a one-on-one setting.

5. 100 points. **Research and Writing (Weekly Homework) Assignments.** Each week students will be assigned topics relevant to the assigned chapter to research. Students will present their findings to the class in Moodle. Each homework assignment is worth ten (10) points. Students should be careful to properly cite sources. Students will be assessed on their ability to effectively communicate their findings. Students' top ten (10) scores will be used to calculate grades.

Weekly homework assignments will be graded using the following rubric:

Failure to submit 0 points	Poor 4 points	Fair 6 points	Good 8 points	Exceptional 10 points
No submission.	Submission was just information cut and pasted off internet with no original thought or effort.	Submission contains one of the following flaws: -unclear writing -poorly organized -does not make reasoned arguments -does not demonstrate complete understanding of the course material.	Submission shows: -understanding of the course material but does not cover the questions completely -does not demonstrate keen critical thinking -fails to properly cite sources -does not provide support for argument	Submission includes exemplary: -writing clarity -use of reason and logic to defend an argument -organization of ideas/completeness -original/critical thinking -proper citations Submission strengthens classmates' understanding of assigned topic.

FALL 2015 CALENDAR

We will do our best to follow the calendar. Your instructor maintains discretion to modify the calendar as necessary. Any changes will be posted in Moodle.

TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Aug. 25 (Meet in Leisinger Hall Rm. 286) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instructor Introduction 2. Review Course Requirements 3. Schedule 8/27 Conferences 	Aug. 27 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HW1: Student Introductions (to be posted in Moodle) due 8/27 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Conferences (Skype or Phone)
Sept. 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 1-2 Quizzes due 9/1 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Ch. 1 & 2 Lecture (assign homework for Thursday) 	Sept. 3 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HW 2: Ch. 1-2 due 9/3 @ 9:30 a.m. (Homework must be posted in Moodle for classmates to review)
Sept. 8 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 3-4 Quizzes due 9/8 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Ch. 3 & 4 Lecture 	Sept. 10 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HW 3: Ch. 3-4 due 9/10 @ 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 15 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 5 Quiz due 9/15 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Ch. 5 Lecture 	Sept. 17 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HW 4: Ch. 5 due 9/17 @ 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 22 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 6 Quiz due 9/22 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Ch. 6 Lecture 	Sept. 24 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch Alton Logan Case (Privileges) 2. HW 5: Logan Case due 9/24 @ 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 29 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 7 Quiz due 9/29 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Chapter 7 Lecture 3. Schedule Midterm Exam w/ ATC 	Oct. 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HW 6: Ch. 7 due 10/1 @ 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 6 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 8 Quiz due 10/6 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Chapter 8 Lecture 	Oct. 8 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare Review Sheet for Midterm Exam
Oct. 13 <p>MIDTERM EXAM (Ch. 1-8)</p> <p>Exam to be taken at the Academic Testing Center between October 12 and 14 (M-W). No late exams will be accepted!</p>	Oct. 15 <p>Midterm Exam Week</p>

Oct. 20 No Class (Fall Break)	Oct. 22 1. Student-Teacher Conferences (review exams)
Oct. 27 1. Chapters 9-10 Quizzes due Oct. 27 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Chapter 9 & 10 Lecture	Oct. 29 1. HW 7: Chapter 9-10 due 10/29 @ 9:30a.m.
Nov. 3 1. Chapters 11 & 12 Quizzes due 11/3 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Chapter 11 & 12 Lecture - Case Study: Norfolk Four (Confessions)	Nov. 5 1. HW 8: Norfolk Four due 11/5 @ 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 10 1. Chapter 13 Quiz due 11/10 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Chapter 13 Lecture - Case Study: Ron Cotton (Misidentification)	Nov. 12 (Withdrawal Deadline) 1. HW 9: Ron Cotton Case due 11/12 @ 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 17 1. Chapters 14 & 15 Quizzes due 11/17 @ 9:30 a.m. 2. Chapter 14 – 15 Case Studies (TBA)	Nov. 19 1. HW 10: Chapters 14-15 due 11/19 @ 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 24 No Class 1. Schedule Final Exam w/ ATC	Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Break (No Class)
Dec. 1 1. Chapter 16 Quiz due 12/1 @ 9:30 a.m. (optional - if student wants to replace lower quiz grade) 2. Chapter 16 Lecture	Dec. 3 1. HW 11: Chapter 16 Homework due 12/3 @ 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 8 2. Chapter 17-18 Quizzes due 12/8 @ 9:30 a.m. (optional - if student wants to replace a lower quiz grade) 1. Chapters 17-18 Lecture	Dec. 10 1. Prepare review sheet for Final Exam
Dec. 15 FINAL EXAM (Chapters 9-18) to be taken at the Academic Testing Center between Dec. 14 and 16.	