

***This is a SouthArk Master Syllabus. The course syllabus distributed by the instructor may include additional requirements, must be followed by the student in the given term, and is considered to supersede the Master Syllabus.***

**Course Number**  
CJRU 2303

**Course Title**  
Rules of Criminal Evidence and Procedures

**Course Description**  
Introduction to the act of investigation. Attention to importance of information, interrogation, and instrumentation and the solution and preparation of criminal cases for trial.

**College Mission**  
South Arkansas Community College promotes excellence in learning, teaching, and service; provides lifelong educational opportunities; and serves as a cultural, intellectual, and economic resource for the community.

**College Wide Student Learner Outcomes**

- Critical Thinking                      Responsibility                      Communication

**ACTS Course**                       **Program Course**

**Program Outcomes**

1. Understand perspectives of the criminal justice systems.
2. Contrast public and private sector administration.
3. Comprehend the application of organizational theory to criminal justice organizations.
4. Describe innovations in American law enforcement.
5. Understand personnel procedures and apply practices in contemporary criminal justice agencies.
6. See courts as organizations with unique administration.
7. Understand corrections agency structures, personnel functions, and current challenges.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of the rights of criminal justice employees.
9. Know the special challenges in discipline, labor relations, and liability.
10. Identify various examples of criminal justice technology.

**ACTS Outcomes**

N/A

**Course Outcomes**

| # | Course Outcomes   | Unit Outcomes/<br>Competencies | ACTS | Program Outcomes | Critical Thinking | Communication | Responsibility | Assessment   |
|---|---|--------------------------------|------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Explain and discuss general evidence and how it applies to the criminal justice system. | 1. 1-5                         |      | 1,4              | CT1<br>CT3        | C1            |                | Written Test |
| 2 | Explain the process for suppression and discovery.                                      | 2. 1-6                         |      | 1,7              | CT1<br>CT3        | C1            |                | Written Test |
| 3 | Define each type of evidence and give an example of each                                | 3. 1-5                         |      | 1,6,<br>7        | CT1               | C1            |                | Written Test |
| 4 | Describe between circumstantial and real evidence.                                      | 3. 1-5                         |      |                  | CT3               | C1            |                | Written Test |

|   |   |        |  |  |            |    |    |              |
|---|---|--------|--|--|------------|----|----|--------------|
| 5 | Identify character evidence and be able to discuss the importance of admissibility of character evidence in court proceeding. | 4. 1-7 |  |  | CT1<br>CT3 | C1 | R3 | Written Test |
|---|---|--------|--|--|------------|----|----|--------------|

## Unit Outcomes/ Competencies

### Unit 1: Introduction:

At the end of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Define the term evidence.
2. Explain who has the burden of proof in a criminal case.
3. Describe the role of the judge and jury in a criminal case.
4. Compare and contrast the relationship between federal and state rules of evidence.
5. Describe what materials are used for legal research.

Assessment Tools: Written Test

### Unit 2: The Court Process

At the end of this unit, students should be able to:

1. List what evidence is considered by the prosecutor when filing criminal charges.
2. Identify what evidence is needed at the preliminary hearing.
3. Identify the types of evidence considered by the grand juries.
4. Explain what information that the prosecutor must give the defense during discovery.
5. Describe what evidence the defense use at the suppression hearing.
6. Explain how juries are selected.

Assessment Tools: [Written Test](#)

### Unit 3: Types of Evidence

At the end of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Define relevant and material evidence and explain when each is admissible in court.
2. Define circumstantial evidence and explain how it differs from direct evidence.
3. Explain the difference between testimonial and real evidence.
4. Define stipulation and judicial notice and explain how each applies in court.
5. Describe presumptions and how they are used in court.

Assessment: Written Activity.

### Unit 4: Direct and Circumstantial Evidence

At the end of this unit, student should be able to:

1. Define both direct and circumstantial evidence.
2. Explain how the jury determines the weight to be given to the testimony of each witness.
3. Describe circumstantial evidence that can modus operandi and to establish motive.
4. Identify situations in which the defendant or skill can be used as circumstantial evidence of guilt.
5. Describe the type of situations in which the defendant prior to the crime may be used in evidence.
6. Identify situations in which the defendant ask after the crime was committed can be used as circumstantial evidence of guilt.
7. Explain when character evidence is admissible at trial and describe how character is established at trial.

Assessment: Written Test

## Assessment Description(s)

A series of exams, hands-on exercises, and short tests.

## Materials and Technological Requirements

Criminal Evidence 8<sup>th</sup> Edition by Hails  
ISBN: 9781285062860

## Class Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. If a student is absent from a class session, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to complete or make up any work missed. No make-up work for missed classes will be allowed without the approval of the instructor. Students who enroll late must assume all responsibility for work missed. Classes not attended as a result of late enrollment may be counted toward excessive absences. Students not attending the entire class period may be counted absent for that period. An instructor may drop students with a grade of "WE" if students have been absent for an excessive number of days. Warning letters will be sent to the students advising them of the consequences of nonattendance and urging them to contact their instructors immediately. Excessive absences are defined as follows:

### **Regular Semester**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Courses which meet once a week .....        | 2 absences |
| Courses that meet twice per week .....      | 3 absences |
| Courses that meet four times per week ..... | 5 absences |

### **Summer Session**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Courses that meet four times per week in a five week session .....  | 3 absences |
| Courses which meet two evenings per week in a 10 week session ..... | 3 absences |

Students enrolled in special programs or individualized instruction should contact their program director/instructor regarding specific attendance requirements for the program/course. Some of the selective-admission, health-science programs have specific criteria regarding attendance. Students are encouraged to refer to program policies in these matters.

### Jury Duty/Military/Official School Function

Scheduled absences are those that occur due to college-related activities or as a result of summons to jury duty or military duty. Classes missed as a result of scheduled absences will not be counted as excessive absences if the instructor is notified and provided documentation prior to the absence(s). Make-up work for scheduled absences will be at the discretion of the instructor.

In all instances, documentation must be provided to the instructor within 24 hours of receipt. Documentation should come from an appropriate party on letterhead or other official stationery with a signature and contact information. Documentation should list the corresponding dates of the leave.

### Medical leave

For medical-related absences, documentation must include written notice from the treating medical professional documenting time needed off related to medical reasons and time student may resume classes. The medical reason does not need to be listed on the documentation; the documentation must include only that there is a medical reason, the amount of time the student needs to be absent, and the time the student should be able to return to classes. Students who elect to work at home while on excused leave must meet with their instructors to make arrangements to do so. Working on coursework while on medical leave is not a requirement but can be requested by students. If students request that they be allowed to work at home while on an excused leave, the instructor will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the student is able to do so.

For students who have a medical condition necessitating time off or accommodation:

- 1) They may work at home on assignments if they choose to if on medical leave approved by a medical professional
- 2) Receive appropriate accommodations related to coursework (i.e., excused from labs with potentially harmful chemicals, have a larger desk, etc.)
- 3) Resume their studies where they left off once they return to classes
- 4) Be allowed to make up any missed work related to medical leave
- 5) Receive incompletes on their transcripts until coursework is completed, according to the incomplete grade contract.
- 6) Be given a reasonable time frame in which to complete missed coursework

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

Students enrolled at South Arkansas Community College are expected at all times to uphold standards of integrity. Students are expected to perform honestly and to work in every way possible to eliminate academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism, which are defined as follows:

- Cheating is an attempt to deceive the instructor in his/her effort to evaluate fairly an academic exercise. Cheating includes copying another student's homework, class work, or required project (in whole or in part) and/or presenting another's work as the student's own. Cheating also includes giving, receiving, offering, and/or soliciting information on a quiz, test, or examination.

- Plagiarism is the copying of any published work such as books, magazines, audiovisual programs, electronic media, and films or copying the theme or manuscript of another student. It is plagiarism when one uses direct quotations without proper credit or when one uses the ideas of another without giving proper credit. When three or more consecutive words are borrowed, the borrowing should be recognized by the use of quotation marks and proper parenthetical and bibliographic notations.

If, upon investigation, the instructor determines that the student is guilty of cheating or plagiarism, the following penalties will apply:

- The student will receive a penalty of no less than a zero on the work in question.
- The instructor will submit a Student Academic Misconduct Form, written report of the incident, to the appropriate dean.
- The dean will submit form to Vice President for Learning to determine disciplinary action.
- The Vice President for Learning will determine whether further disciplinary action will be taken.
- All decisions may be appealed for review through the college's academic appeals procedure.

### **Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Statement**

South Arkansas Community College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, creed, gender, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation in making decisions regarding employment, student admission, or other functions, operations, or activities.

### **Library Services**

Library Homepage: <http://southark.libguides.com/homepage> Library Contact: LibraryStaff@southark.edu or 870.864.7115

### **Procedures to Accommodate Students with Disabilities:**

If you need reasonable accommodations because of a disability, please report this to the Vice President of Student Services with proper documentation. . VPSS Contact: 870.875.7262

### **The Early Alert System**

In an effort to ensure student retention and success, South Arkansas Community College employs an Early Alert System to identify and support at-risk students as soon as possible in a given semester. The intent of Early Alert is to provide this assistance while there is still time to address behaviors or issues that have the potential of preventing students from completing their courses and degree plans. Students referred through the Early Alert System will be required to work on a corrective action plan with their student advising coach and to include attendance accountability and mandatory academic tutoring either in the academic division or in the Testing and Learning Center (TLC).

Once the Student Advising Coach has met with the referred student, and again when the student has met the prescribed corrective actions, the coach will update the Early Alert System so that the instructor is kept informed of the progress in resolving issues.

### **Behavioral Review Team**

At South Arkansas Community College (SouthArk), we are committed to proactive leadership in student wellbeing and campus safety. By focusing on prevention and early intervention with campus situations that involve any person experiencing distress or engaging in harmful or disruptive behaviors, the BRT will serve as the coordinating hub of existing resources to develop intervention and support strategies and offer case management. Students, faculty, staff, and campus guests are encouraged to report any person on campus who is a concern. BRT Contact: 870.875.7262 BRT@southark.edu

**Date of Revision: 9/9/2016**