
COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER: CRJ 236
COURSE TITLE: Criminal Evidence I
LECTURE HOURS/WEEK: 3.0
LAB HOURS/WEEK: 0.0
CREDIT HOURS: 3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)
[Textbook Information](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the established rules of evidence from arrest to release in the administration of criminal justice.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

Module 1: Fundamentals of Criminal Evidence and the Criminal Trial Process

1. Explain the purposed, types and rules of evidence.
2. Discuss the foundation and evolution of the exclusionary rule
3. Identify case law relating to the discovery process
4. Apply the role direct and cross examination in criminal evidence
5. Describe the criminal trial process from arrest to appeal
6. Critique the review process of the Court of Appeals
7. Gather the different types of pleadings
8. Critique the concept of “speedy trial”
9. Explain the role of the courtroom actors related to sentencing

Module 2: Role of the Defense Counsel, Prosecutor, Exclusionary Rule, and Search Warrants and the Crime Scene

1. Develop defense counsel strategies
2. Discuss the importance of motive
3. Explain the role of legal justification
4. Identify the importance of revealing inappropriate government conduct
5. Apply the role of the prosecutor in the evidentiary stages
6. Explain plea-bargaining
7. Examine pre-trial and post-trial motions
8. Critique the “fruit of the poisonous tree” doctrine
9. Articulate each exception to the exclusionary rule
10. Identify criteria for obtaining search warrants
11. Examine constitutional requirements during searches and seizures
12. Describe the execution of search warrant process
13. Relate the importance of safety at a crime scene
14. Identify personal protective equipment required for processing crime scenes
15. Explain the process of conducting a crime scene search
16. Detail the importance of the “chain of custody”

Module 3: Evidence; Physical and Electronic Evidence, and Testimonial Evidence (Confessions and Admissions, Witnesses, and Heresay)

1. Relate the importance of safety at a crime scene
2. Identify personal protective equipment required for processing crime scenes
3. Explain the process of conducting a crime scene search
4. Detail the importance of the “chain of custody”
5. Gather the categories of physical evidence
6. Discuss safe handling and processing of drug evidence
7. Identify types of audio and video evidence
8. Explain digital photography as evidence
9. Critique the evolution and importance of computer evidence
10. Examine the importance of Miranda
11. Define lay witnesses
12. Identify credibility issues with witnesses
13. Gather types of expert witnesses
14. Identify multiple types of forensic evidence
15. Define hearsay evidence
16. Explain the use of private and public records as evidence
17. Identify types of testimonial privileges
18. Apply the Federal Rules of Evidence

MINIMAL STANDARDS

CRJ 236 is designed for completion in one semester. A final grade of “C” must be earned for successful completion of this course. Failure to accumulate enough points for a letter grade of “C” would mean that competencies for the course have not been adequately met. Therefore, students earning a final grade lower than C must repeat the course. All assignments/assessments are expected to be submitted and completed within the specified time frame. Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor and will be outlined in the addendum to the syllabus.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy

The Attendance Policy contained in the College Catalog and Handbook will be enforced. Students are responsible for all material covered and for all assignments made in all classes. Students are responsible for attending all scheduled meetings in the courses in which they are enrolled until they have completed all course requirements.

Withdrawal from a Course

A student may withdraw from a course until midterm with a grade of “W.” To withdraw from a course, the student obtains a Request for Withdrawal from their instructor or from Student Services. To withdraw after midterm and receive a grade of “W,” the student must personally see the Instructor for approval. All other students will receive a grade of “WF.”

The instructor may initiate a withdrawal from class if student:

- has not been in contact with the instructor within the first two (2) weeks of the term
- has not submitted assignments as specified
- has not completed assignments in proctored setting as specified
- has been absent from a class more than 20 percent of the hours assigned

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

The policies stated in the York Technical College Catalog and Handbook will be enforced. Any student involved in cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty will be given a grade of zero and will be subject to further disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes using another's work or words without giving proper credit to the source, cheating on tests and other assignments.

EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING

The final course grade will be determined by a student's performance on the three (3) modules. Each module grade will be comprised of objective and/or essay question exams or quizzes, written and group discussions or assignments, and written projects or papers as required by the instructor. Each module grade will account for a percentage of the course grade as shown below:

Module 1: Exam, Written and Oral assignments - 30%

Module 2: Exam, Written and Oral assignments - 30%

Module 3: Exam, Written and Oral assignments, written project or paper - 40%

Grading Scale

A 90 - 100

B 80 - 89

C 70 - 79

D 60 - 69

F Below 60

ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS: Not Applicable

PREREQUISITES: RDG 100 and ENG 100 or equivalent test scores

CO-REQUISITES: None

Disabilities Statement: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Special Resources Offices (SR) at 803-327-8007 in the 300 area of Student Services. The SRO coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.