

LSTD453

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : LSTD453 **Title :** Evidence

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This undergraduate course will focus on the basic legal rules governing kinds of information which can be developed and received at trial, and how evidence may be considered by the trier of fact. Students will study how policies favoring probative evidence must be weighed against policies protecting against hearsay, opinion, prejudice, time consumption, and other harmful matters. Proper examination and impeachment of witnesses will also be explored.

Course Scope:

This course familiarizes the student with the basic rules of evidence, with specific emphasis on the application of these rules in preparing and presenting evidence. The student will approach the study of criminal evidence through reading assignments, research assignments, readings and/or questions. The student will be challenged on the material presented for reading through weekly class forums, quizzes, writing assignments, culminating in mid-term and final examinations. The student, after completing the course, will have a deep understanding of the rules of evidence and the reasoning of courts and legislative bodies in establishing rules regarding the admissibility of evidence.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

LO1. Examine the historical reason(s) why America's rules of evidence are more restrictive than those established by other countries.

LO2. Trace the development of the exclusionary rule and understand its application today and the exclusions to it.

LO3. Determine why evidence rules are constantly evolving and differentiate between the rules relating to the burden of the prosecution and the burden of proof placed on the defense in a criminal case.

LO4. Interpret and evaluate evidence that is unconstitutionally obtained and examine the effectiveness of the exclusionary rule as a result.

LO5. Examine procedures of introducing evidence and the roles of those in the court room with regard to presenting, challenging, and evaluating evidence and distinguish between judicial notice of facts and judicial notice of law.

LO6. Identify *relevancy* and *materiality* issues; examine the reasons for privileged communications; differentiate between expert testimony and non-expert testimony, or lay testimony; interpret *hearsay evidence* and the *hearsay rule*; and evaluate documentary evidence.

LO7. Examine the general rules relating to the results of examinations and tests and identify specific rules in Federal Rules of Evidence for United States Courts and Magistrates.

Outline

Week 1:

Reading

Ingram

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Learning Objectives

LO1

Assignment

Post your Introduction

and

Complete the week 1 forum.

Week 2:

Reading

Ingram

Chapter 3

Chapter 16

Learning Objectives

LO2, LO4

Assignment

Complete the week 2 forum.

Week 3:

Reading

Ingram

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Learning Objectives

LO3

Assignment

Complete the week 3 forum.

Week 4:

Reading

Ingram

Chapter 6

Chapter 7

Learning Objectives

LO6

Assignment

Complete the midterm examination.

Week 5:

Reading

Ingram

Chapter 5

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

Learning Objectives

LO5

Assignment

Complete the week 5 forum.

Week 6:

Reading

Ingram

Chapter 10

Chapter 11

Chapter 12

Learning Objectives

LO6, LO7

Assignment

Complete the week 6 forum.

Week 7:

Reading

Ingram

Chapter 13

Chapter 14

Learning Objectives

LO7

Assignment

Complete the case brief assignment.

and

Complete the week 7 forum.

Week 8:

Reading

Ingram

Chapter 15

Learning Objectives

LO7

Assignment

Complete the final examination.

Evaluation

The grading will be based on homework assignments, a case brief, midterm examination, and final

examination.

1. **Forums and Assignments:** There are six substantive forum postings and a case brief. They are selected to provide the student with hands on experience in applying the law and theories being discussed.

2. **Exams:** The midterm and final exams will be untimed and taken open book. The exams will be posted in the electronic classroom under "Exams." These examinations will cover selected sections of the textbook and assigned reading. They will consist of essay questions. Please coordinate with the professor for any special arrangements.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
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Materials

Book Title: Criminal Evidence 12th Ed-E-book available in the APUS Online Library and the link is also provided in the classroom Lessons section; hard copy not available from the bookstore, please try other sources.

Author: Ingram, Jefferson L.

Publication Info: Taylor & Francis

ISBN: 9780323294584

Book Title: Bluebook: Uniform System of Citation, 20th ed. - available online through the APUS Online Library: <http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=https://www.legalbluebook.com>

Author: Harvard, Columbia Law Review

Publication Info: Harvard, Columbia Law Review

ISBN: 9780692400197

Websites

In addition to the required course text the following public domain Websites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

Site Name	Website URL/Address
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Oyez – Supreme Court Media	http://www.oyez.org/
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**ABA
Criminal
Law
Section** <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/practical/criminal/>

**Supreme
Court
Website** <http://www.supremecourt.gov/>

**Cornell
Law Crim**http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/Criminal_law
Law Site

Course Guidelines

Writing Expectations

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

Citation and Reference Style

The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All courses in the Legal Studies program require that any narrative essay or composition format follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*. Do not purchase *The Bluebook*, as it is available at the APUS library. Use this link to access:

<http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=https://www.legalbluebook.com>

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Deductions

Late forum posts, assignments, and exams may be penalized five (5) points per day.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or

HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), J

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](http://tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOC111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)

- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

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