CJS 311 COURSE SYLLABUS FALL 2019

This is the course syllabus and it contains important information. Be sure to read the entire syllabus and contact me if you have difficulty understanding what is required for your successful completion of this course. I reserve the right to make adjustments in the syllabus as needed depending upon the progress of the class.

Instructor

Karren S. Price

Office: Liberal Arts North, Room 133

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Email: priceks@sfasu.edu

Office Hours

TH 11:00-12:15; T 11:00-1:00

Other hours available by appointment

Course Related E-mail Guidelines

All emails to me concerning class issues should include your name and course number reference.

All emails to you concerning class issues will be directed to your SFASU email address. You are responsible for checking your assigned SFASU email in box for messages. Likewise, your emails to me should be made through the SFASU email system to insure delivery.

You are responsible for reading all announcements, course documents and emails relating to this course.

Classroom Meeting Schedule and Location

ROOM 179, Ferguson Bldg. TTh; 9:30-10:45

Textbooks

Criminal Evidence, 12th edition, Ingram

Course Description:

Techniques, rules and methods applied to the acquisition, admissibility and use of evidence.

Credit Hour Justification
Criminal Evidence (3 credit hours) is an upper-level course that meets for 15 weeks with a 2-hour final exam in the sixteenth week. Students have weekly reading assignments in this fast to face class in which they must read from the assigned text and/or research articles and critically analyze the reading(s) for the weeks. All exams have multiple choice and short-answer questions in which the student must communicate their knowledge of the material and demonstrate assimilation of the lectures, readings, and current events. Students are expected to discuss the reading assignments and any other assigned readings or videos as they occur. The class is designed for Socratic question and answer method of delivery. Each classroom “hour” requires the student to spend a minimum of 2 hours in preparation for upcoming classes and in completing assigned work.

Course Objectives:

You will have the opportunity to become knowledgeable in:

Evidence rules and theories of admissibility of evidence.

Program Learning Outcomes:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the court system of the United States in terms of structure, constitutional issues and historical precedents.

The student will demonstrate an awareness of ethical issues in criminal justice, and how to use ethical reasoning to formulate decisions and promote organizational and professional trust.

Student Responsibility

You retain the responsibility to regulate your behavior in a manner that will be conducive to learning and attaining a passing grade for this course. You are expected to comply with the general rules of civility:

- You are expected to attend class regularly, on time and PREPARED for discussion of the assigned material
- No cell phones
- No hats, caps, etc.
- No bare midsections
- No underwear showing, No pants at half-mast

You are REQUIRED to participate in class discussions, and while you are free to express your personal views, you must also respect the views of others. I maintain the right to terminate any discussion that is becoming disruptive to the learning process.

You retain the responsibility to make notification of special needs and/or circumstances to the University, Department Chair, and to me. If you are having a problem in this class which you believe I am
responsible for please advise me of same prior to discussing it with anyone else, so that perhaps we can resolve it together. I can assure you that I can not fix it if I don’t know it’s broken.

Because you are an adult, I will not discuss your class business with your parents or guardians.

Tardiness is unacceptable. If you arrive late, please enter quietly, sit in the rearmost available seat. If there is an exam I progress, you will not be allowed to complete it at that time. If your tardiness persists, (3x or more) you will be asked to meet with me during office hours to discuss the issue and you may be asked to drop the class.

ATTENDANCE

This class only meets once per week. Your attendance record will be maintained daily. I will call the roll each day. Your 3rd absence will result in a letter grade reduction for your final grade in the class. Your 4th absence will result in an “F” for the course.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Course Presentation

This course will be more valuable to you if it is something more than a lecture class. I will adapt to your level of participation and interest. (This should be interpreted by you to mean that lively discussion of the material is much preferred). Preparation before you come to class is necessary. You must read every day and prepare an outline of each chapter as you go along. If you are unprepared for class you may be asked to leave for that day. If you do the reading, prepare and outline of each chapter and come to class prepared for discussion every day you should have no problem with this class. If you do not do those things it will be frustrating to you and result in a grade you will not be happy with in the end. I am more than happy to help you if you run into difficulty, but you must make the effort to let me know you need that help.

This text is at a relatively low reading level; consequently students in the past have had a tendency not to read carefully enough. You should read each paragraph and then test yourself by trying to write
in your notes the meaning of that paragraph. If you are unable to do so then you will know you are not getting the material. It is essential that you prepare your own outline of each chapter. If you do not know how to make an outline, look at the Table of Contents for this textbook and you will see the beginnings of one for this text. In an outline it is important to make headings that will prompt you to fill in the blanks, so to speak. Do not try to write down everything you read.

You should also constantly try to apply the material to fact scenarios as your exams are about 50% application questions. It would be helpful for you to pay attention to criminal cases in the news to practice application skills on a daily basis rather than attempt to cram for exams.

Justification of Credit Hours and Course Work Expectations

Pursuant to SFA policy, you are expected to spend a minimum of two hours on out-of-class work per one hour of class time or direct faculty instruction over the 15-week semester (this does not include finals week). That means that you should plan on attending class for 45 hours and working on this course outside of class for at least 90 hours for a minimum 116 hours. In this course, this requirement is approximated in the following way:

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\begin{array}{|l|c|}
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\text{Course room attendance and participation} & 4 \text{ hours per week } @ 15 \text{ weeks} \\
\text{Reading the text/outside materials} & 2 \text{ hours per week } @ 15 \text{ weeks} \\
\text{Study for exams} & 3 \text{ exams } @ 2 \text{ hours each} \\
\hline
\end{array}
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This estimate does not include preparation for the FINAL exam.

YOU SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF MORE READING TIME IS REQUIRED

Assessment Methods

You will have 4 exams each representing 25% of your grade for the course.

EXAMS-4

TENTATIVE EXAM SCHEDULE AND MATERIAL.

Exam#1, Sept. 24 Chapters 1-3
Exam #2, Oct. 17, Chapters 4-6
Exam#3, Nov. 21, Chapters 7-9
Exam #4, Dec.__, Final Exam
Final Exam as scheduled by the University. The final is cumulative and if you miss the FINAL as scheduled you will receive a grade of “0” for that exam.

Missed Examinations

You are required to provide excuses in order to take a make-up examination. All make ups will be required to be taken within 3 class days of the date you missed.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

(1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class;

(2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise, and/or

(3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words of ideas of another person as if they were your own.

Examples are:

(1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another

(2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source, and

(3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Any such occurrences will be dealt with according to University policy, provided to you in your student handbook. (A-9.1) Specifically, we will first meet together to discuss same in my office where you will be given the opportunity to explain your position. If it is determined that academic dishonesty has occurred, I will then make a decision as to the penalty therefor. Penalties may include reprimand or no credit for the assignment or exam, or re-submission of the paper, or make-up exam, or failure of the course. I will then refer the incident to the Chair of the Department and the Dean of the College. This Report of Academic Dishonesty form, along with supporting documentation shall be made a part of the student’s record and remains on file with the Dean’s office for at least four (4) years. A second or subsequent offense shall be referred to the Committee on Academic Integrity pursuant to policy.
Withheld grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and /or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004(TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disability service/.