

CRJ 441 - Courtroom Demeanor & Technique
Siena Heights University at JCC – Fall 2009
COURSE SYLLABUS



Instructor: Thomas R. Radecki, MA., Ph.D., J.D.
Office Hours: By Appointment
Home Phone: 616-453-2930
Class Hours: Saturdays: 10/03; 10/24; 11/14; 12/12; 9am – 5pm
E-mail: tradecki@sienaheights.edu
Credit Hours: 3 semester credit hours

REQUIRED TEXT: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL EVIDENCE, 4TH Edition,
Waltz, Jon R., Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1997
A WRITERS RESOURCE: A Handbook for Writing and Research,
Maimon, E. & Peritz, J.,

Course Description and Learning Strategies

1. This course consists of a survey of the rules of evidence with an emphasis on those rules most relevant to the criminal case. Students will become familiar with rules which govern how a trial is conducted, which persons may be witnesses, the matters about which witnesses can testify, and the manner in which evidence is collected and preserved. The major rules of evidence will be presented from a practical and non-technical standpoint as much as possible, giving students a workable understanding of these rules.
2. The material covered in the course will be organized into three units with an exam given on each unit.
3. A wide variety of information sources and teaching techniques will be utilized in the course. There will be lectures, class discussions, and small group activities. While the text and class notes will be the major sources of information, other sources such as handouts, tapes, and outside readings will also be used.

Methods of Evaluation and Assessment

1. There will be three major exams in the course. These exams will be non-cumulative and of equal weight. The exams will be partly objective and partly essay in format. Each exam will make up 25% of the course grade.
2. There will be a small number of written assignments given during the course. These together with class discussion will constitute the remaining 25% of the course grade.
3. Make-up exams will be given only for the most serious reasons and prompt notification is necessary.

Students are expected to be present at, and prepared to participate in all class sessions. Class discussion will be a major activity of the course and is highly encouraged. Attendance and exposure to class lectures and discussion is extremely important. Failure to attend class regularly (defined as more than three (3) absences) may have a serious negative effect on the final course grade, and will require make-up work to be determined meeting with the instructor.

4. Grading Scale
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|-----------------------|-------|---|
| 90-100 pts. | | A |
| 80-89 pts | | B |
| 70-79 pts | | C |
| 60-69 pts | | D |
| 59 pts . or less..... | | E |

The instructor retains the discretion to utilize a more lenient grading scale where appropriate.

Academic Accommodations

In accordance with University policy and the equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may be eligible for as a student with a disability. Please contact me (517-264-7853) for an appointment to discuss accommodations in my office. Students must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities for disability verification and determination of reasonable accommodations. Bob Ritz is the Coordinator of the Office for Students with Disabilities. He may be reached by phone at 517-264-7863 or by e-mail at ritz@sienaheights.edu. Requests for accommodations must be made no later than the second class period and are not retroactive. It is your responsibility to work with your instructors to assure a fair opportunity to perform well.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

“Academic dishonesty is unethical behavior, which in any way violates the standards of scholarly conduct.” (See the University Catalog for a complete definition of this policy.) It includes such acts as cheating on examinations, submitting essentially the same paper for more than one course, and plagiarism. “Plagiarism is the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. It includes, but is not limited to, verbatim use of a quote without quotation marks and adequate documentation, submission of a paper prepared by another person as one’s own work, using the ideas, facts, work, or data of someone else and claiming them as your own, or not documenting ideas, facts, words, or data gathered during research.” A violation of the University’s Academic Dishonesty Policy will result in a failing grade on the particular item which was the subject of the dishonesty and/or a failing grade in the course.

Objectives and Learning Outcomes

I Learning Outcomes of the Criminal Justice Program:

1. Develop the ability to empathize.
2. Be able to critically evaluate the criminal justice system, identifying its operational processes.
3. Identify and exemplify service to the university and community.
4. Recognize the need for development of a fair, just, and ethical criminal justice system.

5. Be able to understand and develop explanations for a variety of human behaviors and seek solutions to social problems impacting the criminal justice system.
6. Develop an interdisciplinary approach to the study and practice of criminal justice. Appreciate the role of social sciences in the study of criminal justice.

II Course Objectives:

1. To acquire an understanding of the U.S. and Michigan Court Systems.
2. To acquire a general understanding of the American Criminal Justice system and the laws related to criminal procedure (particularly in Michigan).
3. To develop an understanding of some of the major U.S. and Michigan constitutional rights of the accused.
4. To acquire knowledge of the major rules of criminal evidence and how these operate in the criminal trial process.
5. To develop an understanding of the major issues and controversies regarding the rules of criminal evidence.

III Relationship of the Course to the Learning Outcomes:

The objectives of this course tie in closely with the Criminal Justice Learning Outcomes stated above. The course, for example, incorporates several activities in order to develop communication skills of writing, speaking, and listening including lecture, discussion of key issues, and written assignments. Attempts are made to link theory and practice in several ways and also involve the evaluation and understanding of research in the legal area. Discussions of controversial issues allow students to identify strengths and weaknesses of the criminal justice system. An interdisciplinary approach is utilized in the course.

Special Accommodations:

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CRJ 441 - Courtroom Demeanor & Technique - Course Outline
 Jackson Community College Campus



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Date	Major Topics and Activities	Assigned Text Reading
October 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Introductions • Introduction to the Course • Introduction to Law and the American Legal System • The Criminal Trial • Nature and Types of Evidence • The Trial Record • Burden of Proof and Judicial Notice 	Chapters 1, 2, 3A-E, I, J, 4A, 13, 14
October 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testimonial Evidence • Lay and Expert Witnesses • The Rule Against Hearsay • Exceptions to the Hearsay Rule • Impeachment of Witness Credibility • Testimonial Privilege • Exam #1 (Covering Chapters 1, 2, 3A-E, I, J, 4A, 13, 14) 	Chapters 4B, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 17
November 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 5th Amendment Privilege Against Self-Incrimination • Confessions • The 4th Amendment Protection Against Unreasonable Searches and Seizure • Exam#2 (Covering Chapters 4B, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 17) 	Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11
December 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Evidence • Real, Documentary and Demonstrative Evidence • Exam#3 (Covering Chapters 3F, 3G, 3H, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19) 	Chapters 3F, 3G, 3H, 16, 18, 19

