

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY- RIO GRANDE COLLEGE
CASTROVILLE * DEL RIO * EAGLE PASS * UVALDE
DEPARTMENT NATURAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM
COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2024

COURSE TITLE: CJ 3308 & CRIM 3308: Law Of Evidence

COURSE PERIOD: Online Web Course

PROFESSOR: Dr. Sergio J. Gonzalez

Email: All correspondence should be made using Sul Ross State University email to sjg17iz@sulross.edu

BIOGRAPHY:

January 1, 1999-Present: Court-At-Law Judge, Val Verde County.

August 2017 – Present: Adjunct Professor at Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College

November 2, 1990-1998: General Practice of Law with Law Offices of Gonzalez, Gonzalez & Gonzalez, 313 Pecan Street, Del Rio, Texas. Criminal Felony & Misdemeanor, Juvenile, Divorce & Child Custody, Protective Orders, Child Protective Services, Probate, Guardianships & Civil Matters.

May 4, 1986: Juris Doctorate Degree, O.W. Coburn School of Law, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

August 14, 1981: Bachelor of Arts Degree, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas.

May 2, 1976: Del Rio High School Graduate, Del Rio, Texas.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION STUDY HOURS:

January 1, 1999-Present: 699.00 Total CLE; 105.75 Total Ethics, State Bar of Texas.

JUDICIAL JURISDICTION:

Misdemeanor Criminal; Protective Orders Juvenile Misdemeanor & Felonies; Contested & Uncontested Probate; Guardianships; Adult Protective Services DWI DRUG Specialty Court Divorces & Child Custody Civil Matters.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Rules which govern the admissibility of evidence at hearings and trials. This course provides a thorough study of the evidence rules, with specific emphasis on the application of these rules in preparing and presenting evidence. This includes a discussion of the history and approach of the study of evidence; proof by evidence and substitutes; general admissibility tests, including relevance and materiality; opinions and expert testimony, and the hearsay rule; evidence by way of witness testimony; documents, scientific and real evidence; and exclusion of evidence on Constitutional grounds. For a better understanding of the evidence rules, judicial decisions are cited and included for discussion.

COURSE MATERIALS:

“Digital Online Access” Chapter Assignments 1-15

Access MindTap through the course link provided in Blackboard. You will be taken to a new page where you will be prompted to create an account with Cengage. This is a MUST one-time process. If you have previously completed this step, you will be taken directly to the payment options screen. After registering for Cengage, you will be prompted to purchase access to MindTap. FREE ACCESS MindTap is temporarily available for the first two weeks of semester. If you are not able to purchase access after free access period has expired, you will be required to pay for access

ACADEMIC SUCCESS:

Students enrolling in online Web Courses at Rio Grande College must be aware that such courses are not self-paced and require considerable vested time in order to meet requirements. Students should be prepared to devote a considerable amount of time to accomplish the requisites in this course. Each semester will require a student to devote approximately 12 hours per week to each web class – which equates to 3 hours of class time plus 9 hours of reading, research, writing and other course preparation.

COMPUTER LABS:

Rio Grande College computer labs are open Monday – Thursday 8:00AM - 10:00 PM and Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM. Computer labs are not open weekends. However, students may avail themselves to the SWTJC computer labs with a valid ID. Online web course students should have available a high-speed internet connection on a regular basis for off-campus course work, exams, assignments and research.

DISHONESTY:

Academic cheating and plagiarism is not acceptable behavior. It violates university policy and human ethics. If a violation occurs the penalty will result in the grade of “F” for the semester.

ASSIGNMENTS, COURSE

Assignments, activities, Chapter Exams, and assessments have been structured to mandate maximum participation in this course.

GRADING SCALE, SEMESTER GRADES, & EXTRA CREDIT:

Student(s) MUST VIEW the COMPLETE Video Case and answer the (5) multiple choice questions to maximize your total points. Complete chapter reading assignments and click on highlighted word to obtain definition. You MUST further complete You Decide Part I, answer the few multiple-choice questions. Each Chapter contains a Chapter Exam with (25) multiple choice questions. There will be no final semester exam. You have (2) opportunities to retry your assignment activities to max your point totals.

Chapter reading assignments, research and writing endeavors are of the utmost importance in student assessment and evaluation. Chapter final exams may be taken at any location using a high-speed internet connection. It is recommended that Student(s) not to utilize cell phones as the same may be disruptive and detrimental in completing course requirements.

Chapter assignments, activities, and exams will be made **available from Wednesday January 17, 2024, through Monday May 3, 2024.**

Students are advised NOT to use a cell phone for tests; it may be detrimentally affected by service disruptions.

Student responsible for student omissions or technology issues.
Course grading scale: A: 440-481; B:390-439; C: 350-389; D: 310-349; F: 0-309. Professor may include a curve that will determine the final semester student course grades.

Final semester grades will be reported to the Office of Admissions & Records. Student grades are posted on Banner for review at the conclusion of each semester.

Extra credit will be given to each student that participates in the Live and/or TEAMS Courtroom Classroom Session @ the Val Verde County Court-At-Law Courtroom, 400 Pecan Street, 2nd Floor, Del Rio, Texas on March 20, 2024 from 5:30 pm -7:30 pm

SEMESTER GRADES:

Final semester grades are reported to the Office of

Admissions & Records. Student grades are posted on Banner for review at the conclusion of each semester.

Week 1:

Chapter 1: Preview of Criminal Procedure in the Age of the Digital Revolution

Chapter 2: Criminal Procedure and the Constitution

May 28 to June 3

Week 2:

Chapter 3: Searches and Seizures

Chapter 4: Stop and Frisk

June 4 to June 10

Week 3:

Chapter 5: Seizure of Persons: Arrest

Chapter 6: Searches for Evidence

June 11 to June 17

Week 4:

Chapter 7: 'Special Needs' Searches

Chapter 8: Self-Incrimination

June 18 to June 24

Week 5:

Chapter 9: Identification Procedures

Chapter 10: Remedies for Constitutional Violations I: The Exclusionary Rule

June 25 to July 1

Final Exam:

July 3