

LGLA 2341.151
Evidence Course Syllabus

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CLASSROOM: Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course includes instruction in gathering evidence, fashioning evidentiary arguments, and preparing evidence for trial. Focus is placed on the practical applications of the rules of evidence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course reviews the background, scope and applicability of the Texas Rules of Evidence, and explores the sources of evidence and the laws relating to its admissibility. The student will prepare legal documents regarding evidentiary matters commonly used in pre-trial discovery and at trial. Students successfully completing this course will understand the process of collecting evidence and preparing evidence for trial, be familiar with the rules governing evidence in Texas, and be familiar with the federal counter-parts to the Texas Rules of Evidence.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: *Evidence for Paralegals, 5th Edition* by Marlowe, Joelyn; Wolters Kluwer Publishing; ISBN: 978-0-73-559013-7

(If a new edition of this textbook is released and adopted for this course, additional information will be provided in the “Start Here” module on Blackboard. Additionally, information as to where to purchase or access the book will be given in the “Start Here” module.)

GRADING: One examination will be given at the end of the semester and will count 25% of the final grade. Weekly class assignments (number determined by professor) will count 75% of the final grade. No make-up examinations will be given. Grade equivalents: 90 to 100% = A; 80 to 89% = B; 70 to 79% = C; 60 to 69% = D; Below 60% = F.

ASSIGNMENTS: **Assignments will only be accepted through Blackboard.** Late assignments will not be accepted. Students must maintain academic integrity in all assignments – “copying and pasting” from other sources (e.g. the Internet, other students, etc.) is plagiarism and will be grounds for dismissal from the course. Where it is apparent students have submitted substantially identical answers, those students will not receive credit for those answers.

COMPUTERS: Paralegal Studies students have access to computers in the computer lab located in LC109. Lab computers are for course-related work only. All student work on SPC computers must be saved on a removable storage device, e.g. a flash drive.

Student-Owned Computer Equipment: Students may choose to use their own computer equipment to complete the assigned coursework. SPC provides Microsoft Office to students for installation and use on their personal computers. It is the sole responsibility of the student to ensure his / her computer system meets the minimum requirements for all required or suggested software. It is also the sole responsibility of the student to insure his / her computer system is in working order, free of malware, and sufficient to complete assigned coursework. The instructor is not responsible for the student's computer maintenance and cannot troubleshoot or repair issues on student-owned computers. If the student needs computer assistance, he/she can contact the SPC student helpdesk.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

For Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please refer to Syllabus Statements (southplainscollege.edu).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative schedule for this course. Changes will be made as needed as we progress throughout the semester. Tests and assignments will be scheduled as we progress through the material. Make sure you frequently check Blackboard, announcements, and emails for the due dates of tests and assignments.

Week	Topic to be discussed:
1	Introduction to the course; Syllabus
2	Basics of evidence in the U.S. Legal Systems
3	Relevance
4	Character
5	Habit
6	Competency
7	Impeachment
8	Expert opinions
9	Settlements
10	Hearsay
11	Hearsay exceptions
12	Hearsay exceptions, continues
13	Authentication
14	Constitutional constraints
15	Privileges

16	Presumptions
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