

Criminal Evidence Course

Syllabus

Spring Quarter 2017 -item #5017

Instructor: Kathleen Decker

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Office location: TBD

Office Hours: Friday morning 0830-0930 by appointment

Course Information

****Warning: This course will contain crime scene photographs, crime scene video and graphic audio statements from suspects who have committed violent crimes *****

Required Text:

Criminal Evidence (9th Edition), by: Thomas J Gardner Terry M. Anderson ISBN: 978-1-285-45900-4. Cengage Learning Publishers, 2014 (hardcover).

Course Description: Surveys the steps in collecting evidence, both real and circumstantial, in a criminal case. Students examine the legal processes from investigation through the trial process.

Course Outcomes

- After completing this class, students should be able to:
- Evaluate the protections afforded by the United States Constitution and the Washington State Constitution.
- Comprehend the roles and procedures of the police in criminal investigations.
- Define proper methods of evidence collection in a criminal case.
- Evaluate the history of rules of evidence in state and federal law.
- Summarize the major case law from the United States Supreme Court in a criminal proceeding.
- Analyze the various classes of evidence; real and demonstrative, direct and circumstantial, physical and testimonial, documentary and scientific.

Course Outline: May be adjusted with notice by the instructor to meet the course requirements and student learning needs. Guest Lecture topics and presentations may also be changed to meet the the needs and interests of the class.

Week 1 April 3rd-7th

4/3 Introduction to course and expectations (syllabus)

Read: Chapter 1 History and Development of the Law of Criminal Evidence

Read: Chapter 2 Important Aspects of the American Criminal Justice System

Week 2 April 10th-14th

Assignment DUE April 17th (search warrant review on Felony Assault Case)

Read: Chapter 3 Using Evidence to Determine Guilt or Innocence

Read: Chapter 4 Direct and Circumstantial Evidence and the Use of Inferences

**April 14th instructor will be absent students to use the hour as a study hall to prepare for quiz on April 17th or to complete reading assignment reference search warrant and affidavit posted on Canvas due the morning of April 17th.*

Week 3 April 17th-21st

Quiz: April 17th 50 pts True/False Multiple Choice

Read: Chapter 4 continued Direct and Circumstantial Evidence and the Use of Inferences

Read: Chapter 5 Witness and the Testimony of Witnesses

**Guest Lecture Northwest Bloodhounds scent evidence/man trailing DEMO 2hrs Wednesday April 19th.*

Week 4 April 24th-28th

Read: Chapter Six Judicial Notice, Privileges of Witnesses, and Shield Laws

Read: Chapter Seven The use of Hearsay in the courtroom

Week 5 May 1st-May 5th

Quiz : May 10th 50 pts True/False Multiple Choice

Read Chapter Eight The confrontation Clause and Exceptions to the Hearsay Rule

Read Chapter Nine The Exclusionary Rule

Case Study

Week 6 May 8th-May 12th

Read Chapter 10 Where the Exclusionary Rule Does Not Apply

***May 10th and May 12th INSTRUCTOR ABSENT assignments and or guest lecture to be determined.*

Week 7 May 15th-May 19th

Read Chapter 12 Obtaining Statements and Confessions for Use as Evidence

Case examples of confessions and class room discussion

Week 8 May 22nd-May 26th

Quiz: May 24th 50 pts True/False Multiple Choice

Read Chapter 13 The Law Governing identification Evidence

Week 9

Holiday May 29th

May 29th-June 2nd

Read: Chapter 14 Crime Scene, Documentary, and Scientific Evidence

Guest Lecture: DPA to discuss warrants on computers; social networking sites...etc.

Read Chapter 15 Obtaining Evidence by Use of Search Warrants, from Computers, Wiretapping, or dogs trained to indicate an Alert.

Week 10 June 5th-June 9th

Read Chapter 15 continued Obtaining Evidence by Use of Search Warrants, from Computers, Wiretapping, or dogs trained to indicate an Alert.

Week 11 June 12th-June 16th

June 12th Mock Crime Scene

All participants must write a final victim/ witness/suspect statement, police report and or certification document as the final exam.

Mock scene roles:

2 victims

2 suspects.

4-6 witnesses

4-6 Detectives

June 14th Mock Trial (mock scene goes to trial)

All participants must write a paper pertaining to their role or a trial brief/charging document as final exam.

FINAL EXAM 100 pts

Mock Trial roles:

4 witnesses

2 suspects

2 victims

2 defense

2 prosecutors

Judge

Jury (12)

June 16th turn in final assignment and debrief

Grading

Quizzes 3 @ 50 pts each = 150pts

Assignment @ 25pts

Participation/Attendance/Discussion 100 pts

Final Exam 100 pts

Total Points 375 pts

A 94-100% A- 90-93% B+ 87-89%

B 84-86% B-80-83% C+ 77-79%

C 74-76% C-70-73% D+67-69%

D 60-66% F 0-59%

Academic Etiquette: Classes will begin promptly as listed above. Please make every effort to be in class and to be here on time. If it is unavoidable that you arrive late- or even leave early- please do not disrupt the class. **Respect for opinions voiced in class is essential, and I expect all students to treat each other**

courteously. Any type of disruptive or discourteous behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated; these types of behaviors will result in the student(s) being asked to leave the class. Classroom restrictions: cell phones must be turned off for class (or on vibrate for emergency purposes) and stored (phones should be in your bag, purse, pocket, NOT ON YOUR DESK), (if they go off you may be asked to leave the class).

Laptops are permitted in the last row only. If you are not taking notes, you will be banned from use of your laptop (no Facebook, checking e-mail, etc. PLEASE DO IT ON YOUR OWN TIME).

Affirmation of Inclusion: Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Academic Integrity: *Plagiarism or cheating of ANY kind will not be tolerated and will result in failing the test and/or the course as well as other disciplinary action (see Bellevue College Handbook, Academic Dishonesty).* If you are at any time unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, see me ASAP. In all instances, you must do your own work.

Attendance: All students are expected to attend every class. Obviously, if students do not attend class regularly, the opportunity to perform well in this course is greatly diminished.

Students with Disabilities: I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. If you require accommodation based on a documented disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation; please make an appointment with DRC (Disability Resource Center.) If you would like to inquire about becoming a DRC student, you may call 425-564-2498 or go in person to the DRC program office in B-132.

Course Requirements: All students are expected to read the required chapters of the textbook as outlined in the schedule section of this syllabus. Students are also expected to attend class regularly, take notes, ask questions, and participate in class discussions.

Make-up Policy: *Any* make-up quizzes or assignments are allowed ***only at the discretion of the instructor*** and immediate notification from the student is imperative. Additionally, ***all*** make-up quizzes (for ***any un-excused*** circumstance) will adhere to the following criteria: 1) administered ***only*** by the instructor during office hours/or instructor's choosing 2) ***cumulative*** in nature; and 3) given in an ***all-essay*** format. Any excused absence (with documentation) will be allowed to take the make-up quiz or assignment without penalty.

Extra Credit: As a general rule, there is usually no extra credit available in this introductory level course. I may, however, **at any time during the quarter** provide in-class extra credit opportunities. Obviously, if you are not in class on these days, you are not eligible for these opportunities.

Bellevue College E-mail

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to *MyBC*.

All e-mail communication from you should come to me from your BC account (not your g-mail, Hotmail, yahoo, etc.). Please e-mail me through CANVAS for the quickest reply. I will respond to you within 24-48 hours (except on weekends). BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#). (Links to an external site.)

Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/> (Links to an external site.)

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Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in

advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal from Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

[Replace this text with a clear explanation of exactly how the course will be graded so there is a basis for evaluating grade disputes. Policies for lateness should be spelled out here if they are not included in your division's statement. If you grade PARTICIPATION, you will need to tell students what you mean.]

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog: [Grading Policy](#) (Links to an external site.)

Help with Canvas

The following places are helpful for [Instructors](#) (Links to an external site.) or [Students](#) (Links to an external site.) .

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

- **Instructor's Expectation**

[Replace this text with expectations for students and student success in the class.]

- **Affirmation of Inclusion**

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

- **Religious Holidays**

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

- **College Anti-Discrimination Statement**

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

- **Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share with the Title IX Coordinator any and all information regarding sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct (e.g. dating violence, domestic violence, stalking) that may have occurred on campus or that impacts someone on campus. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the BC Counseling Center at (425) 564-2212. The Title IX Office can be contacted at 425-564-2441 and more information can be found at www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/ (Links to an external site.).

For further information and contacts, please consult [College Anti-Discrimination Statements](#) (Links to an external site.).

- **Division Statements**

Information about Bellevue College's copyright guidelines can be found at: [College Copyright Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

This link provides a good, short summary of how to avoid plagiarism: [Avoiding Plagiarism \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

This 22-minute video also provides a good overview of how to avoid trouble when using sources: From the college home page select SERVICES, then LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER, then DATABASES, then FILMS ON DEMAND. At their site, search by title for **PLAGIARISM 2.0: ETHICS IN THE DIGITAL AGE**.

• **Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity**

Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at: [Student Code \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[If you plan to use a plagiarism checking service, you should indicate so in your syllabus. Please make sure your penalty for plagiarism does not contradict official college policy. You may find it simplest to not specify a penalty and simply refer all cases to the Dean for investigation. Incident reports can be filed at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns/> (Links to an external site.)]

Important Links ▪ Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: [Create Email \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Technology Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

▪ Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with disabilities. A disability includes any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Common disabilities include physical, neurological (e.g. Autism, ADD), and mental health (e.g. depression, anxiety). If you are a student who has a disability or if you think you may need accommodations in order to have equal access to programs, activities, and services, please contact the DRC.

If you require assistance in an emergency, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan for while in class and contact the DRC to develop a safety plan for while you are elsewhere on campus.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. [Contact Autism Spectrum Navigators \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (ASN). Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

The DRC office is located in building B Room 132. You can contact the DRC by stopping by B132, calling our desk at 425-564-2498, emailing drc@bellevuecollege.edu, and Deaf students can reach us by Skype (account name **DRCatBC**). For more information about the services we offer, including our Initial Access Application, visit our website at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc (Links to an external site.).

Accessibility

The online elements of this course are designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future

▪ Public Safety

Public Safety and Emergencies

Public Safety is located in the D building (D171) and can be reached at **425-564-2400** (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system by registering at [RAVE Alert Registration \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort.

Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for.

If a major emergency occurs, please follow these three rules:

- 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response** -We all need to be working together.
- 2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to)** - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge.
- 3) In an emergency, call 911 first, then Public Safety.**

Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you have safety questions or concerns at any time. You may also visit the [Public Safety \(Links to an external site.\)](#) web page for answers to your questions.

▪ **Final Exam Schedule (100 pts)**

June 12th-June 16th

[Final Exam Schedule \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

The final exam will consist of a combination mock crime scene and mock criminal trial. Students will be required to produce written/typed documents that may vary from victim/witness statements to charging documents, case reports, trial briefs or formal court analysis papers. The number of role players will depend upon the class size.

In case of an emergency during finals, you should have a plan that you discuss in advance with your students.

Here are some alternative options to consider:

1. Give your students an “I” (incomplete grade) until such time as they are able to take the exam. (This may be a hardship on some students receiving financial aid.)
2. Post the exam on Canvas.
3. Calculate your students’ grades based on what they have earned to date. *It’s probably best to exercise this option only if it has been clearly spelled out in your syllabus beforehand.*
4. If the campus is still open, but you are not able to safely get here, you can arrange for a colleague or staff member to proctor the exam for you.
5. Check with your chair about other options that may be appropriate to your discipline.

Whichever option(s) you decide to use, be sure to communicate that to your students. Put up a message on the course Canvas site about your plan. *In future, please include this information in your course syllabi too.*

▪ **Academic Calendar**

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- [Enrollment Calendar \(Links to an external site.\)](#) On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.

- [College Calendar](#) (Links to an external site.) This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Course Calendar

Assignment Due April 14th, 2017 (25pts)

Quiz #1 April 17th (50pts)

Quiz #2 May 10th (50pts)

Quiz #3 May 24th (50pts)

Finals June 12th-June 16th