Criminal Evidence  
Fall 2014  
August 25-December 12, 2014  
Student Syllabus: CJ 3315

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:  
Instructor: Chief Michael Lummus  
Office: N/A online course (available by cell)  
Office Hours: N/A online course (do not hesitate to call me on cell)  
Phone: (512) 818-0152 cell phone  
E-Mail: michael.lummus@go.tarleton.edu (subject to change)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An analysis of the procedures and rules of evidence applied to the acquisition, offering, admissibility, and presentation of evidence from the crime scene, courtroom, and appellate court perspectives. This course is intended for junior level students and provides an overview of evidentiary processes from acquisition of evidence through the highest appellate court available. Emphasis will be placed on the history and rational for various forms of evidence and the proper way to prepare evidence for admission to a trial court. Knowledge and comparison of both Texas state rules of evidence and Federal court rules of evidence will be covered.

PREREQUISITES: CJ 131 and 232 or approval of instructor

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The goals of this course are for students to:
- Students will demonstrate writing skills appropriate to the discipline of Criminal Justice.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in use of technology appropriate to the discipline of Criminal Justice.
- Students will understand and value the ethics of Criminal Justice.
- Students will understand key concepts of Criminal Justice.
- Students will acquire a basic understanding of evidentiary terms.
- Students will demonstrate proper uses of authentication, relevance, procedure, and use of hearsay in evidentiary-related areas.
- Students will apply key concepts to Criminal Justice create operational strategies and formulate justice policy.
COURSE SCHEDULE: ONLINE


GRADING REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS:
Each exam will be graded on a 100 scale. For example:
90-100 A  80-89 B  70-79 C Below 70 is failing.

Required Course Work:
Reading: Reading assignments are to be completed prior to class, as scheduled.
You are expected to be familiar enough with the readings to apply the material to
class discussion as well as to respond to written and oral questions based on the
readings.
Exams: There will be three exams in this course. The exam scores will be averaged
for a final score. The format of these exams may include a variety of question
types.
Exam 1 covering chaps 1-6 will be available from 9/22 until midnight 9/25
Exam 2 covering chaps 7-11 will be available from 10/27 until midnight 10/30
Exam 3 covering chaps 12-17 will be available from 12/1 until midnight 12/4

I will post study guides and power points for your studying efforts at least 1
week before each scheduled exam.

Discussion Board: Each week students will need to post in the online discussion
board. These posts will be in response to questions posed by the instructor. The
initial post should be a comprehensive response to the question (maximum 150
words) and a reference or two is encouraged for maximum grade. A simple I agree
or disagree will not suffice. Students will also be required to read and respond to
two other students' responses each week. These responses should be a maximum
of 100 words. The discussion questions will be posted on Sundays and you will
have until the following Saturday to post all three postings. Participating fully in
the discussion board questions will net up to 3 points added to your final
grade. Little or no participation will result in a loss of 10 points from your
final grade. This will be an easy 3 points for you to gain to your final average.
LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:
ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE ASSIGNED DATE. I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS.
Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of “0”. In addition, there is absolutely no allowance for make-up work. You may work ahead, but late assignments and/or assessments will not be accepted for any reason. It is strongly recommended that students not wait until the last minute to submit assignments!

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Regular and punctual class attendance is expected at Tarleton State University since it is assumed that students are enrolled for the serious purpose of furthering their education. Excessive absenteeism is defined as being equivalent to two weeks of instruction in a sixteen-week semester and may result in failure or being dropped from the course. I will expect students to attend a minimum of all scheduled class instruction. Attendance is linked to favorable evaluation(s). No matter the basis for absence, students are held accountable for academic activities. Fall 2014 semester begins August 25 and ends December 12, 2014. *Online Attendance is demonstrated through participation in the discussion boards and by the completion of assignments in a timely manner.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Tarleton State University expects its students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All students are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity in the performance of all assignments. Dishonesty in any form is unacceptable and will not be allowed. Any violation of academic integrity (cheating of any type, plagiarism in any form) is a serious offense and will be treated accordingly. The penalty for such an offense can range from a “0” for the assignment to academic dismissal.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE:
The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative, not combative. Please, proofread your responses carefully before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more “traditional” classroom setting.
STUDENTS RIGHTS:
Students have the right to express dissenting opinions from that of the instructor. No student will be penalized for disagreeing with the instructor’s opinion. However, students should know the difference between opinion and fact, as factual information is not subject to debate.

ADA COMPLIANCE:
It is the policy of Tarleton State University to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable laws. If you are a student with a disability seeking accommodations for this course, please contact the Center for Access and Academic Testing, at 254.968.9400 or disability@tarleton.edu. The office is located in Math 201. More information can be found at www.tarleton.edu/sds or in the University Catalog.
Any student with a documented special need should notify me as soon as possible so that appropriate instruction aids or accommodations may be used. You must be registered with Disability Services in order to receive accommodations for your disability.