Subject: AJ 104: Legal Aspects of Evidence

E-Mail Contact Information: yflores@riohondo.edu

Catalog Course Description:
This course is designed to provide Administration of Justice or other interested students with an in-depth study of evidence rules. An emphasis will be placed on the application of rules in preparing and presenting evidence. The course will discuss the history and approach to the study of evidence. Topics include proof by evidence and substitutes, general admissibility tests, evidence by way of witness testimony, documents, real evidence, and exclusion of evidence on constitutional grounds. For a better understanding of the evidence rules, judicial decisions are cited and students will be required to brief cases.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Throughout the semester, your performance on multiple student learning outcomes will be evaluated. These are skills for which all students who successfully complete this course should be able to demonstrate proficiency. The outcomes which will be assessed include--but are not necessarily limited to--the following:

The student will be able to:

1. Apply legal definitions, concepts, and principles to law enforcement, courts, or correctional settings.
2. Communicate information in a clear and organized manner.
3. Analyze ethical dilemmas encountered in the law enforcement and/or corrections fields and decide on the correct ethical choice.
4. Apply constitutional, statutory, procedural, and case law to real-life criminal justice situations.

By logging into Canvas you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in BP 5500 (Standards of Conduct) and AP 5520 (Student Conduct Procedures) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is NOT a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore

This course will include regular instructor student contact. Methods of regular instructor student contact include:

Textbook: Practical Criminal Evidence by Gregory D. Lee

Case Study: Department Of Justice Report Regarding The Criminal Investigation into the Shooting Death of Michael Brown by Ferguson, Missouri Police Officer Darren Wilson (Link provided in course syllabus)
Additional supplemental reading and study materials include, but are not limited to:

- Internet and other electronic sources of data and information.
- Media coverage includes national, regional, local and international news sources studied from a criminal justice perspective.

Students are required to participate in the quizzes and in-depth discussion forums. The instructor will participate in the discussion forums to enhance the learning experience. There is also a case study where students will apply knowledge gained to the selected case study. All assignments are graded. Failure to participate will result in a lowered grade. Students may be dropped for non-participation (absences) for three sessions or two consecutive sessions. The instructor will be proactive in the course and respond to all emails within 48 hours excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Legal Holidays.

**The instructor may drop you for non-participation.**

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Canvas.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Online Education website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientation can be found at: [http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/](http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/)

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the [Disabled Students & Programs](http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/) office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

*Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.*