

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS SPRING 2018

Course Title: Evidence & Criminal Procedure

Course #: CJS* 213

Course Description: 3 Semester Hours

Identification, classification, collection, and types of criminal evidence; search and seizure of persons, houses, papers, and effects; self-incrimination and identification; law enforcement and prosecutorial discretion; arrest; criminal court procedure; and related topics examined through reading and analyzing state supreme court, federal circuit court, and United States Supreme Court decisions.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite:

Prerequisites: ENG* 096 and CJS 101

Goals: The goal of this course is to introduce the students to written case opinions interpreting the United States Constitution and state constitutions, so that the students will identify and examine the concepts, principles, and laws applied to the collection of criminal evidence and the procedures followed in the criminal justice system.

Outcomes: At the completion of the course, students will possess the skills to:

1. In the format of a Law Student's Case Brief: recognize and state the title of a case, the case citation, and the judge/justice writing the case opinion; paraphrase the case history, case facts, and constitutional (legal) question(s) presented in the case; restate the court judgment and the court opinion(s).
2. Recall the Key Terms of Criminal Procedure listed at the end of the assigned reading chapters and match the Key Terms to their definitions.
3. Identify, describe, and place in order the steps in a criminal trial court proceeding from Arrest through Post-Conviction.
4. Differentiate the types of searches and seizures considered by the courts to be valid from those considered to be prohibited under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
5. Compare and contrast the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination from the Sixth Amendment right to counsel.
6. Evaluate the effect of the Exclusionary Rule on the balance between community security and individual autonomy.
7. Apply the concepts, principles, and law interpreted from case opinions to fact scenarios presented in class to decide whether evidence obtained as a result of a search, seizure, confession, or identification is subject to exclusion from admission in a criminal court proceeding.
8. Recognize and critique how United States Supreme Court case opinions impact the collection of evidence and laws of criminal procedure; recognize how the laws of criminal procedure impact the collection of evidence; recognize how current events impact both the collection of evidence and criminal procedure.