PST 1030 CRIMINAL EVIDENCE  
NASHVILLE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
POLICE SCIENCE

Instructor:
Office/Office Hours: By appointment
Phone:
Email:
Classroom & Times:  
Course Credit: 3

Course Description:
A study of the types, proper treatment, and disposition of criminal evidence. Examines the problems of admissibility in court proceedings. Other topics include types of evidence, rules for obtaining the evidence, principles of exclusion, evaluation and examination of the evidence, proof, competence of witnesses, hearsay rule, opinion, pre-trial discovery, and testimony in court.

Course Outcomes:
- Understand the problems that exist in the admissibility and disposition of evidence in a criminal court case.
- Summarize the rules of obtaining evidence that will be admitted into a criminal court case.
- Analyze the principles of exclusion, evaluation and examination of the evidence, proof and competence of witnesses as they pertain to criminal evidence presentment at a trial.

Course Competencies:
Acquisition of a working knowledge of criminal law and procedure from the perspective a law enforcement officer.

Textbook:
Also required to have the Tennessee Rules of Evidence which can be downloaded http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/opinions/tsc/rules/tncourtrules/01evid.htm

Disclaimer: Textbooks frequently change editions, so please be sure to check with the school bookstore to verify the current ISBN of the textbook before purchasing the textbook.

Attendance:
You must attend at least 40 of the 45 hours to pass. Roll will be taken each class session. Absences will be reported. If you miss over 5 hours, you will be asked to drop the course. If you miss over 5 hours and do not drop the course, you will receive an “FA” or “FN” for the final grade. Exceptions may be granted by permission of the INSTRUCTOR ONLY!

Testing:
There will be an interim test and a final exam. Students will be responsible for all material in the test, any additional handout materials, and for any additional subject matter covered in class lectures. The final exam will be comprehensive. The testing format will be both objective and subjective.
Grading Criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interim Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>Projects, assignments, classroom participation, and quizzes.</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Grade Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>70 – 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>60 – 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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Students will be responsible for any work that is missed.

Class Participation:
This course is for the benefit of the students. Therefore, classroom participation is expected. Appropriate and pertinent questions are encouraged. From time to time students may receive assigned materials to prepare for classroom presentation. Points will be deducted whenever a student fails to prepare an assignment for class. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive students will be excused from the classroom.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. “Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (A Writer’s Reference 331).

Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by:

- claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference
- fraudulently using someone else’s work on an exam, paper, or assignment
- recycling your own work from another course
- purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own
- attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor
- impersonating someone else in a testing situation
- providing confidential test information to someone else
- submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor’s permission
- allowing someone else to copy or use your work
- using someone else’s work to complete your own
- altering documents, transcripts or grades
- forging a faculty/staff member’s signature

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination, or to assign an “F” for the course.

Classroom Conduct Policy:

Nashville State has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom.

- The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity.
- He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct, or conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.
Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment is defined as:

- Offensive language
- Harassment of students or professors
- Repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught
- Failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum
- Continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others;
  - Beepers
  - Cell phones
  - Palm pilots
  - Lap-top computers
  - Games

Students who are removed from class for disruptive behavior will not be allowed to return until the issue is resolved.

Additionally, no eating in the classroom is allowed; no wearing of sunglasses is allowed in class, except in cases prescribed by a physician; sleeping or lounging in class is considered disruptive behavior and grounds for immediate dismissal.

**Use of Cellular Telephones and Pagers in Classrooms:**

Students who are required to carry pagers and/or have cell phones for employment and/or family responsibilities must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester concerning the necessity for the pager/cell phone. The instructor and student will discuss the need(s) for the pager/cell phone and a decision will be made by the instructor concerning the use of the pager/cell phone. In cases where pagers/cell phones are required and allowed by the instructor, the pager/cell phone must not disrupt the classroom. Students who violate the terms of agreement on the use of pagers/cell phones will forfeit the use of the privilege. **Students will not be excused to make telephone calls during examination periods.**

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT:**

Nashville State Technical Community College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you wish to request any accommodation(s) for this class, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students should not be given special accommodations in the classroom unless an accommodation form from Student Disability Services is completed and distributed to the faculty member.

- Student Disabilities Coordinator: Katie Watts (615) 353-3721 Office: S-114

**NOTE:**

This syllabus is a master syllabus. Specific course requirements are subject to revision at the discretion of the individual instructor. A course syllabus will be provided the first day of class.
Class Schedule
(Note: The schedule is tentative and subject to change as circumstances dictate.)

Since this is a master syllabus, the class schedule is not available.