

Evidence
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EVIDENCE SYLLABUS

I. Required Materials

- a. Understanding Evidence, Paul Giannelli, Lexis/Nexis (2nd Ed.,2006)
- b. A copy of the updated Federal Rules of Evidence, with annotations (any publisher).

II. Other Suggested Materials

Evidentiary Foundations, Edward J. Imwinkelried, Lexis/Nexis (7th Ed. 2008)

Any publication which contains a large number of problems in evidence. The best problems are those which present a fact situation and ask you to choose the correct ruling or result. A good example is *Questions and Answers: Evidence*, David Leonard, Lexis/Nexis (2003)

Try some legal literature, just for laughs: *Courtroom 302* by Steven Bogira (criminal) or *See You in Court* by Thomas Geoghegan (civil).

III. Methodology

The problem method will be used, supplemented by lecture, videotapes, problem handouts and a study of recent cases where appropriate. Focus will be on the Federal Rules of Evidence, supplemented by discussion of any Illinois variances. You are responsible for all assigned reading, problems, handouts, and exercises, whether or not the material is covered in class. (Problems will be assigned on Blackboard or handed out in class. Feel free to discuss any of the problems, assigned or unassigned, with your classmates or the Instructor)

Computer Exercise

Students are required to complete a computer exercise in Evidence. The law library has on reserve a series of computer videodiscs in a variety of case simulations. Students should choose one disk from the descriptive list available at the circulation

desk or on the library website under the Instructor=s name. Each student must complete one disc by the end of the semester and must sign his or her full name to the class list in the library.

IV. **Grading**

Grading for the course will be based on the written **multiple-choice** final examination. Participation in the classroom discussion, however, is integral to the course. The professor may raise or lower a student's grade by one-half a letter grade depending on the student's classroom performance. For example, if a student receives a grade of C+ on the final examination and his/her classroom performance is deserving, that student will receive a final grade of B.

The professor reserves the right, in accordance with DePaul student regulations, to exclude any student from taking the final examination where the student has not regularly attended class or where the student has not regularly prepared for class. Failure to regularly attend is defined as an unexcused absence from three or more class meetings. A student who is not prepared for class should so advise the professor before the beginning of class. Preparation includes a close and careful reading of all cases and notes assigned.

V. **Office Hours** - Prof. Cavise does not schedule regular office hours. You are welcome to stop by at any time. If the professor is not available, an appointment may then be scheduled by e-mail or in person.

COURSE SYLLABUS

NOTE: THERE IS AN ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FIRST CLASS. YOU ARE TO REVIEW EXERCISE NO. 1 (A SEPARATE THREE-PAGE EXERCISE AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD AND THE WEBSITE) AND BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE FACTS.

NOTE 2: THE READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS CLASS ARE SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE HEAVY RELIANCE ON THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS AND CLOSE ATTENTION IN CLASS. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROBLEMS AND CASES IN THE BOOK ONLY AS ASSIGNED IN CLASS. ASSIGNED READING MAY, ON OCCASION, BE NECESSARY BACKGROUND AND MAY NOT BE COVERED AT ALL IN CLASS OR, AT LEAST, NOT IN THE ORDER ASSIGNED.

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