

SDO 544: Evidence

Course and Faculty Information

Course Description: This course focuses on the principles and practices governing the competency of witnesses and presentation of evidence, including the rules of exclusion and roles of lawyer, judge, and jury under the adversary system.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: none

Instructor: Prof. Christopher Baier

Contact Info: Christopher.Baier@asu.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze new facts as applied to legal rules and theories.
- Analyze issues in evidence and reach logically defensible solutions regarding whether the evidence is or is not admissible.

Textbooks

Title: Learning Evidence: From the Federal Rules to the Courtroom, 5th Edition

Author: Deborah Merritt and Ric Simmons

ISBN: 978-1684675784

Course Access

Your ASU courses can be accessed by both my.asu.edu and canvas.asu.edu ; bookmark both in the event that one site is down.

Computer and Technology Requirements

This is a fully online course. To ensure you can access and participate in all course content, please review the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law's [Computer and Technology Requirements](#)

Help

For technical support, use the Help icon in the black global navigation menu in your Canvas course or call the ASU Help Desk at +1-(855) 278-5080. Representatives are available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Student Success

To be successful:

- check the course daily
- read announcements
- read and respond to course email messages as needed
- complete assignments by the due dates specified
- communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track
- access [ASU Online Student Resources](#)

Grading

Your grade will be determined based on the following grading schema:

Grade	Percentage
A+	99-100%
A	93-98.99%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	70-76.99%
D	60-69.99%
E	Below 60%

*Canvas Final Grades are a good indicator of an earned grade, however, **they are not the “official” earned grade** and may be subject to a curve at the discretion of the professor. The “official” earned grade for all courses is always the grade shown in the MyASU Portal upon completion of the course.*

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, **MUST** be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email.

Assignment due dates follow Arizona Standard time. Click the following link to access the [Time Converter](#) to ensure you account for the difference in Time Zones. Note: Arizona does not observe daylight savings time.

Citations

All material quoted or paraphrased in any submission that is not your own original work must be cited.

In-text citations are expected in conjunction with full citations in foot-notes, end-notes, or a Works Cited. Citation format may follow MLA, APA, Bluebook, or a combination of those unless a specific format has been established by your professor.

Citation Resources:

[MLA](#)

[APA](#)

[Bluebook](#)

Grading Procedure

Grades reflect your performance on assignments and adherence to deadlines. Grades on assignments will be available within 1 week of the due date in the Gradebook. The professor reserves the right to apply a curve at anytime during the course.

Late or Missed Assignments

To ensure timely completion of assignments and fair evaluation, all work is expected to be submitted by the designated due date and time. Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 10% of the total assignment value per calendar day past the deadline. Students anticipating extenuating circumstances that may impact their ability to meet deadlines should communicate with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss potential accommodations in accordance with university policy.

Communicating With the Instructor

Community Forum

This course uses a discussion topic called "Community Forum" for general questions and comments about the course. Prior to posting a question or comment, check the syllabus, announcements, and existing posts to ensure it's not redundant. You are encouraged to respond to the questions of your classmates.

Email questions of a personal nature to your instructor. You can expect a response within 72 hours.

Chat

The Chat tool in Canvas allows students and teachers to interact in real time. Use Chat only for informal course-related conversations unless your instructor informs you otherwise. Chat is not ideal for questions about assignments; instructors are not required to monitor it and conversations may be buried or lost.

Email

ASU email is an [official means of communication](#) among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly.

All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.

ASU Online Course Policies

View the [ASU Online Course Policies](#)

Accessibility Statements

View the [ASU Online Student Accessibility](#) page to review accessibility statements for common tools and resources used in ASU Online courses.

If any other tools are used in this course, links to the accessibility statements will be listed below this sentence.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.