

AJ-6 Criminal Evidence

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2025

Course ID and Section number: AJ-6-V7615

Instructor's name: John Schutt

Day and time of required meetings: Online, pre-recorded lectures, no live lecture

Location: Online only

Course units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Online or by Appointment:

Office hours: By Appointment

Phone number: 702-561-5268

Email address: john-schutt@redwoods.edu

Communication notes: For the quickest response message me using Canvas messaging.

Catalog Description

A course designed to provide students a working knowledge of evidence and case law relating to the admission of evidence in legal proceedings. Topics include the following: Origin, development, philosophy, and constitutional basis of evidence; constitutional, statutory, and procedural considerations which affect the admissibility of evidence; kinds and degrees of evidence; and case studies viewed from the conceptual level.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Classify a given piece of evidence, e.g. direct, circumstantial, real, demonstrative, hearsay, etc.
- Analyze court decisions to extract the legal rules contained therein concerning the general admissibility of evidence, and more specifically evidence subject to the rules of discovery and the exclusionary rule.
- Analyze a word-picture scenario and apply the rules of evidence and court decisions to determine whether the evidence in question would be admissible in court.

Prerequisites/corequisites/ recommended preparation

None

Educational Accessibility & Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, or bipolar disorder
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as a learning disability, intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury, or ADHD
- Vision, hearing, or mobility conditions

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, academic assistance and tutoring through the [LIGHT Center](#), counseling and advising, alternate formats of course materials (e.g., audio books, braille, E-texts), assistive technology, learning disability assessments, approval for personal attendants, interpreters, priority registration, on-campus transportation, adaptive physical education and living skills courses, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support Services \(SASS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS) for a consultation: sass@redwoods.edu.

SASS office locations and phone numbers

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Location: Student Services building, first floor SS113

Del Norte campus

- Phone: 707-465-2353
- Location: main building, near the Library

Klamath-Trinity campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280

Student Support Services

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

[CR Online Learning Support](#)

Tech support, laptop loans, guides to using Canvas, installing Office 365 for free, and more.

[Library Articles & Databases](#)

Find the best library databases for your research.

[Online Tutoring Resources](#)

Participate in tutoring over Zoom.

To learn more about the resources available to you, click on a title bar below, or click the down arrow to expand them all.

Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR Klamath-Trinity Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821.

Community College Student Health and Wellness

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

If you are in distress or are with someone at risk right now, call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

741-741

[Timely Care](#)

When you're not feeling well physically or distressed mentally, Timely Care can offer the help you're looking for in just a few quick taps. Students can schedule an appointment anytime via phone, video, and chat. [Log in or set up an account with Timely Care.](#)

[Mental Health Counseling](#)

Students should text, email, or fax Shawna Bell directly for scheduling and/or services.

- Text: 707-496-2856
- Email: shawnabmft@gmail.com
- Fax and voicemail: 707-237-2318

[Wellness Central](#)

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Wellness Central](#).

Counseling

[Counseling and Advising](#) can assist students in need of academic advising and professional counseling services. Call, email or stop by one of our offices to make an appointment!

Counseling and Advising office locations and contact info

Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4150
- Location: Student Services Building, first floor
- Email: counseling@redwood.edu
- Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm. Summer hours may vary

Del Norte campus

- Phone: 707-476-2300
- Location: Main Building, next to the library
- Hours: Summer hours may vary

Klamath-Trinity campus

- Phone: 530-625-4821
- Email: KT-staff@redwoods.edu
- Hours: Summer hours may vary

Basic Needs Center

[Basic Needs Center](#) provides for the health and safety of students by providing access to healthy food, financial resources, and referrals to safe and secure housing. [Submit a request for services and information](#).

Basic Needs Center contact info

- Phone: 707-476-4153
- Email: the-grove@redwoods.edu

Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students:

Library Services

[Introduction - Library Services for Students - LibGuides at College of the Redwoods](#) promotes information literacy and provides organized information resources.

Multicultural and Equity Center (MCE)

The [Multicultural and Equity Center](#) is a dynamic and inclusive place that supports all students in their academic and personal journeys at the college. We do this by creating community, home away from home, and a safe place for cultural expression, cross-cultural learning, access to college and dignity resources, and social justice work opportunities. The MEC is committed to retention and student success by offering activities related to leadership development, student connectedness and student equity. We are a student-centered program that fosters respect for all people.

Academic Support Center

The [Academic Support Center](#) offers tutoring and test proctoring for CR students.

Student Tech Help

Technical [Support](#) provides students with assistance around a variety of tech problems.

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)

[EOPS/CARE](#) (EOPS) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook awards, grants, career academic and personal counseling, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!

TRiO Student Success Program

The TRiO Student Support Services Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including academic advising, career assessments, assistance with transfer, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program with the [Eureka TRiO office](#) or the [Del Norte TRiO office](#).

Veterans Resource Center

The [Veterans Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.

CalWORKS

California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids ([CalWorks](#)) provides supportive services to student parents with children under the age of 18, who are receiving cash assistance (TANF benefits), to become self-sufficient. Services include: transportation assistance, basic student supplies, tutoring, priority registration, laptop and calculator loans, career, academic, and personal counseling, and more!

Spring 2025 Dates

Date	To Remember
January 17	Last day to register for classes (day before the first class meeting)
January 18	Classes begin
January 20	Martin Luther King's Birthday (All Campuses Closed)
January 24	Last Day to add a class
January 31	Last Day to Drop & Receive a Refund
February 2	Last Day to Drop w/out a "W"
February 3	Census Date (20% of class)
February 14	Lincoln's Birthday (All Campuses Closed)
February 17	President's Day (All Campuses Closed)
March 6	Last Day to Petition to Graduate & Petition for Certificate
March 17 - 22	Spring Break (No Classes)
March 28	Last Day for Student/Faculty Withdrawal
March 31	Cesar Chavez Day (All Campuses Closed)
May 10 - 16	Final Examinations
May 16	Last Day to File P/NP Option
May 16	Semester Ends
May 23	Grades Due
May 26	Memorial Day (All Campuses Closed)
May 30	Grades Available for Transcript Release

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [2024-2025 College Catalog](#) and [CR Board and Administrative Policies](#).

AI Use Class Policy

Recent advancements in generative artificial intelligence (AI) have made large language models such as ChatGPT and Google's Bard widely available. However, overuse of these tools in this class can undermine your learning and curtail the development of your critical and creative thinking skills. In addition, AI outputs are often unreliable and frequently subject to bias. For these reasons, the policy of this class is that AI cannot be used at any point in the completion of class assignments, including discussion posts. Any or all of your assignment submissions and discussion posts may be screened by AI detection software, but the real penalty for AI misuse is that you will miss out on an opportunity to learn.

Disruptive Behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [2024-2025 College Catalog](#) and [CR Board and Administrative Policies](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Canvas Information

- Log into Canvas at [My CR Portal](#)
- For help logging in to Canvas and general tech help, visit [Canvas Support Home](#)
- Once you're logged in to Canvas, you click on the Help icon on the left menu
- Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course](#)

Setting Your Preferred Name and Pronouns in Canvas

Students have the ability to display personal pronouns and an alternate first name in Canvas. Students may change their pronouns on their own in Canvas (Account :: Settings :: Edit Settings). To request a change to your preferred list name, contact [Admissions and Records](#). Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas; this does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form-2022.pdf](#).

Emergency Procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones. Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into [WebAdvisor](#) and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or campus-safety@redwoods.edu if you have any questions. For more information visit [Campus Safety](#). Please review the [EurekaEmergencyMap_S24.pdf](#) for campus evacuation sites, including the closet site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room).

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel

Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

To learn more about campus-specific Emergency Procedures, click on a title bar below, or click the down arrow to expand them all.

Del Norte Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [Crescent City campus emergency map](#) for campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information, visit [Campus Safety](#).

Klamath-Trinity Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the responsibilities of, and procedures used by, the College of the Redwoods, Klamath Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to communicate to faculty, staff, students and the general public during an emergency. It is the responsibility of College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to protect life and property from the effects of emergency situations within its own jurisdiction. In the event of an emergency, communication shall be the responsibility of the district employees on

scene:

1. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
2. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
3. If safe to do so, personnel shall relay threat information, warnings, to ensure the school community is notified.
4. Contact 530-625-4821 to notify of situation.
5. Contact Hoopa Tribal Education Administration office 530-625-4413
6. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111.

In the event of an emergency, the responsible district employee on the scene will:

1. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet.
2. Lock all doors and turn off lights if in lockdown due to an active shooter or similar emergency.
3. Close all window curtains.
4. Get all inside to safe location Kitchen area is best internal location.
5. If a police officer or higher official arrives, they will assume command.
6. Wait until notice of all is clear before unlocking doors.
7. If safe to do so, move to the nearest evacuation point outside building (Pooky's Park), directly behind the Hoopa Tribal Education Building.
8. Do not leave site, unless it has been deemed safe by the person in command.

Textbook:

Criminal Evidence 14th Edition

Jefferson L. Ingram

ISBN-13: 978-0-367-55194-0 Hardback

ISBN-10: 978-0-367-55193-3 Paperback

AJ 6 CRIMINAL EVIDENCE

SPRING 2025

Office Hours: By Appointment

Telephone: 702-561-5268

E-mail: via Canvas messaging/ john-schutt@redwoods.edu

STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THIS COURSE WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Classify a given piece of evidence, e.g. direct, circumstantial, real, demonstrative, hearsay, etc.
2. Analyze court decisions to extract the legal rules contained therein concerning the general admissibility of evidence, and more specifically evidence subject to the rules of discovery and the exclusionary rule.
3. Analyze a word-picture scenario and apply the rules of evidence and court decisions to determine whether the evidence in question would be admissible in court.

Every three weeks or so, I will post a crime scenario exercise

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The final exam will be cumulative. This means that while the primary focus of the final exam is on the chapters covered since the mid-term test, some part of the final exam questions may require you to deal with matters raised/discussed earlier in the course. The exams will be available for viewing and downloading under the “modules” and/or “files” areas of our course webpage.

I will look both for quantity and quality when I grade your responses to any written work. Copying and pasting or copying verbatim, material from the textbook (or other sources) is by itself, an insufficient response. In the instructions for all written assignments, I will establish both a due date and a minimum length ‘word count’.

The two tests will contain detailed instructions for their completion and electronic submission of them to the Canvas website. Any scenarios or exams turned in late will be assessed a late grade penalty of my choosing. Employment issues, childcare, computer issues, etc. are not excuses for the submission of any late work. **Plan ahead.**

In general, if you are experiencing computer glitches or problems with the Canvas site, first contact the College of the Redwoods help desk – **its@redwoods.edu** or call them at **707.476.4160** during business hours. If that is insufficient, then either contact me at my home phone number* listed above or E-mail me directly. I will try to help you with minor issues with the websites, but my main expertise is in the subject of the course, not computer hardware or software.

COURSE GRADE SCALE:

A = >95%-100% A- = >90%-95% B+ = >85%-90% B = >82%-85% B- = >80%-82% C+ = >75%-80% C = >70%-75% D = 61%-70% F = <61%

CLASS GRADE:** The course grade will be composed of the following:

- Two Exams- 65% of grade
- Four Crime Scenarios – 20% of grade
- Class Discussion Participation – 15% of grade

Take home exams are given. The two exams will require a limited amount of research outside of class readings and lectures, primarily in the Federal Rules of Evidence (FRE) and the California Evidence Code (CEC). The proper use of standard English, which includes grammar, spelling, and punctuation is part of the grade of all written work.

***A grade of “F” on **either** exam, **or** the entire class participation **or** crime scenarios categories may result in an “F” grade for the entire course.*

Instructor-Initiated Class Withdrawal Policy: -- “Excessive Absences” – defined as missing *more than* two live (face to face) and/or virtual (attendance via internet) class sessions. This means that if you miss *three or more classes*, I may withdraw you from the course.

The “Incomplete” grade status will not be assigned except under extraordinary circumstances.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Every Week, check the “Modules” section of the Canvas course webpage. There you will find several things***:

1. When exam time arrives – I will provide directions for the two exams. You can download and print a copy of the exams and other supporting materials. They too need to be uploaded to the Canvas course webpage.

****All “documentary evidence” items, e.g. notes pages, exams, or other documents are always located in the “Files” section of our course webpage.*

All readings are assigned one week in advance of the time where they will be discussed in the weekly class session.