



INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE

CRJ 236

Criminal Evidence

Effective Term

Fall 2024/Spring 2025/Summer 2025

INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE

Part I: Course Information

Effective Term: Fall 2024/Spring 2025/Summer 2025

COURSE PREFIX: CRJ 236

COURSE TITLE: Criminal Evidence

CONTACT HOURS: 3.0

CREDIT HOURS: 3.0

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE:

The course is designed as a second-year course. This course provides the criminal justice student with the understanding of the evidentiary path that evidence takes from collection to presentation in a criminal trial. In the course, an emphasis will be placed on the types of evidence and the importance of evidence being competent, relevant, and material. Also, the importance of the witness and his(her) testimony will be stressed, including examination, cross-examination, and impeachment. Students will be exposed to trial process and procedure through participating in a mock trial or a pretrial hearing, which is mandatory.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course studies established rules of evidence from arrest to release in the administration of criminal justice. The course focuses on the relationship between evidence and criminal procedure.

PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:

CRJ 101- Intro to Criminal Justice with a minimum grade of C.

CRJ 115- Criminal Law with a minimum grade of C.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Hails, J. (2014). *Criminal evidence*. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

Please visit the [BOOKSTORE](#) online site for most current textbook information.

Enter the semester, course prefix, number and section when prompted and you will be linked to the correct textbook.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

CRJ 236 – Criminal Evidence does not have additional costs other than textbook, tuition, and fees.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Access to Desire2Learn (D2L), HGTC's learning management system (LMS) used for course materials.

Access to myHGTC portal for student self-services.

College email access – this is the college's primary official form of communication.

All criminal justice courses whether traditional, hybrid or online, require students to access the course in D2L through a personal computer. Therefore, students should have a reliable access to a computer with a dependable Internet connection to be successful in this course or any criminal justice course. Students will be required to access, download, and/or print material from the course in D2L, which is accessible through My Courses and the student's WaveNet account. Students should pay particular attention to the course outline under Content as well as the course calendar. Students will be able to monitor grades and attendance through the course in D2L.

Criminal justice courses, whether traditional, hybrid, or online **require** students to complete some, if not all, course work – assignments, exams, and other activities - through an online environment in D2L. Traditional in the classroom and hybrid require students to complete a portion of the required work online. The amount of online activity depends on the format of the course; therefore, students should pay particular attention to the course information and documents. Courses with an online component move very rapidly with graded requirements typically due each week. Students **must** be aware of the calendar and mindful of updates and announcements; therefore, a student **must** have access to a reliable computer and a dependable Internet connection. Criminal justice courses use D2L as a platform for course activities.

When having technology problems find another computer. Computers are open to students at numerous locations on all three campuses including open computer labs and the libraries. There are computers available for use in other public locations including the public libraries. A final option would be to contact a friend or relative to borrow a computer. When technology issues are related to the system (i.e., D2L and WaveNet), and not the result of a broken computer or server connection, you should contact Student Online Support OIT Help Desk at (843) 349-5340 or through their link on the WaveNet homepage. Technology issues or technical problems are not an acceptable excuse should there be a course requirement that **must** be completed through D2L. When having difficulty with accessing the course or its components, or e-mail function, it is a good idea to notify your professor about the problem or difficulty.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION

Students enrolled in online courses will be required to participate in a minimum of one (1) proctored assignment and/or one (1) virtual event to support student identification verification. Please refer to your Instructor Information Sheet for information regarding this requirement.

COURSE ETIQUETTE AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR:

According to the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System (3-2-106.1), there are numerous forms of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism, collusion, and fabrication of information (HGTC Catalog, 2020, p. 35).

Furthermore, as described under Section III, Student Conduct Regulations, inappropriate behavior can include but is not limited to (1) abuse of privilege of freedom of speech or assembly, (2) falsification of information and other acts intended to deceive, (3) actions which endanger students and the college community, (4) infringement of rights of others, and (5) other acts which call for discipline (HGTC Catalog, 2020, p. 35).

All criminal justice students are expected to conduct themselves in a **professional and ethical** manner at all times in word or action. The standards of professional and ethical behavior will be enforced. Any violation associated with inappropriate behavior including but not limited to statements or remarks made in class, during internships, or through emails, postings including Facebook or social media sites, text messages, or other communications will **not** be tolerated.

At the discretion of the professor of record, academic misconduct or inappropriate behavior may be reported in writing as a violation of the Student Code under Section IV, which could result in disciplinary action (HGTC Catalog, 2020, p. 37).

All alleged acts of sexual violence or sexual harassment **must** be reported to the Title IX Coordinator or designee. Per the South Carolina Technical System Student Code Procedures for Addressing Alleged Acts of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (3-2-106.2), "students may also contact any responsible employee, who has an obligation to report any claim of sexual harassment or sexual assault to the Title IX Coordinator, or designee" (HGTC Catalog, 2020, p. 40).

Part II: Student Learning Outcomes

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES and ASSESSMENTS:

UNIT I - INTRODUCTION; ROLE OF THE COURTS; THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS

- **Material Covered:** *Criminal Evidence* (2014), Chapters 1-3
- **Student Outcome:** Describe the term evidence.
- **Student Outcome:** Describe how geographic jurisdiction of a court is determined.
- **Student Outcome:** Describe what must be provided to the defense during discovery.
- **Assessment:** Assignment #1
- **Assessment:** Quiz #1

UNIT II - EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES

- **Material Covered:** *Criminal Evidence* (2014), Chapters 4-6
- **Student Outcome:** Define and/or describe relevant and material and explain when each is admissible in court.
- **Student Outcome:** Define and/or describe direct and circumstantial evidence.
- **Student Outcome:** Describe the process of impeaching a witness, including the ways a witness can be impeached, and how to rehabilitate a witness.
- **Assessment:** Assignment #2
- **Assessment:** Quiz #2
- **Assessment:** Exam #1 (Chapters 1-6)

UNIT III – CRIME SCENE; SCIENTIFIC AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

- **Material Covered:** *Criminal Evidence* (2014), Chapters 7-8
- **Student Outcome:** Describe the importance of the chain of custody and why.
- **Student Outcome:** Describe how the foundation is established for the admission of a crime scene evidence, experiments, and models.
- **Student Outcome:** Describe what is meant by “best evidence.”
- **Assessment:** Assignment #3
- **Assessment:** Quiz #3

UNIT IV – HEARSAY; PRIVILEGE COMMUNICATIONS

- **Material Covered:** Hails (2014) *Criminal Evidence* (2014), Chapters 9-10

- **Student Outcome:** Define and describe hearsay.
- **Student Outcome:** Describe why the law regarding privileges allows relevant information to be excluded from trial.
- **Student Outcome:** Compare and contrast the privilege not to testify against one's spouse with the privilege for confidential communications between husband and wife.
- **Assessment:** Assignment #4
- **Assessment:** Quiz #4
- **Assessment:** Exam #2 (Chapters 7-10)

UNIT V – SEARCH AND SEIZURE; EVIDENCE GATHERING

- **Material Covered:** *Criminal Evidence* (2014), Chapters 11-14
- **Student Outcome:** Describe the Exclusionary Rule and explain its effect on evidence.
- **Student Outcome:** list the types of searches that jail inmates may be subject to without a search warrant.
- **Student Outcome:** Compare and contrast the Plain View Doctrine with the Open Field Doctrine.
- **Student Outcome:** Explain how Misplaced Reliance Doctrine applies to conversations.
- **Assessment:** Quiz #5
- **Assessment:** Assignment #5

UNIT VI – SELF-INCRIMINATION; IDENTIFICATION; PREPARATION

- **Material Covered:** *Criminal Evidence* (2014), Chapters 15-17
- **Student Outcome:** Define the scope of the 5th Amendment protection against self-incrimination.
- **Student Outcome:** Differentiate between lineup, show up, and photographic lineup.
- **Student Outcome:** Describe contacts an officer should have with lawyers, witnesses, and jurors.
- **Assessment:** Course Project
- **Assessment:** Quiz #6
- **Assessment:** Exam #3 (Chapters 11-17)

General Education Outcomes

This course fulfills the following General Education Outcomes through the (list the appropriate assessment). Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Communicate effectively
- Think critically
- Self and professional development

Part III: Grading and Assessment

EVALUATION OF REQUIRED COURSE MEASURES/ARTIFACTS

Students' performance will be assessed and the weighted associated with the various measures listed below.

EVALUATION (COURSE GRADING)*

Exams	30%
Quizzes	30%
Assignments	20%
Project	<u>20%</u>
	100%

****Students, for the specific number and type of evaluations, please refer to the Instructor's Course Information Sheet.***

GRADING SYSTEM:

State the College's or departmental grading system as delineated in the Catalog. Please note the College adheres to a 10 point grading scale A = 100 – 90, B = 89- 80, C = 79 – 70, D = 69 – 60, F = 59 and below.

Grades earned in courses impact academic progression and financial aid status. Before withdrawing from a course, be sure to talk with your instructor and financial aid counselor about the implications of that course of action. Ds, Fs, Ws, WFs and Is also negatively impact academic progression and financial aid status.

The Add/Drop Period is the first 5 days of the semester for **full term** classes. Add/Drop periods are shorter for accelerated format courses. Please refer to the [academic calendar](#) for deadlines for add/drop. You must attend at least one meeting of all of your classes during that period. If you do not, you will be dropped from the course(s) and your Financial Aid will be reduced accordingly.

Part IV: Attendance

Horry-Georgetown Technical College maintains a general attendance policy requiring students to be present for a minimum of 80 percent (80%) of their classes in order to receive credit for any course. Due to the varied nature of courses taught at the college, some faculty may require up to 90 percent (90%) attendance. Pursuant to 34 Code of Federal Regulations 228.22 - Return to Title IV Funds, once a student has missed over 20% of the course or has missed two (2) consecutive weeks, the faculty is obligated to withdraw the student and a student may not be permitted to reenroll. **Instructors define absentee limits for their class at the beginning of each term; please refer to the Instructor Course Information Sheet.**

For online and hybrid courses, check your Instructor's Course Information Sheet for any required on-site meeting times. Please note, instructors may require tests to be taken at approved testing sites, and if you use a testing center other than those provided by HGTC, the center may charge a fee for its services.

Part V: Student Resources



THE STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTER (SSTC):

The SSTC offers to all students the following **free** resources:

1. **Academic tutors** for most subject areas, **Writing Center support**, and **college success skills**.
2. Online **tutoring** and academic support resources.
3. Professional and interpersonal communication **coaching** in the EPIC Labs.

Visit the [Student Success & Tutoring Center](#) website for more information. To schedule tutoring, contact the SSTC at ssc@hgtc.edu or self-schedule in the Penji iOS/Android app or at www.penjiapp.com. Email ssc@hgtc.edu or call SSTC Conway, 349-7872; SSTC Grand Strand, 477-2113; and SSTC Georgetown, 520-1455, or go to the [Online Resource Center](#) to access on-demand resources.



STUDENT INFORMATION CENTER: TECH Central

TECH Central offers to all students the following **free** resources:

1. **Getting around HGTC**: General information and guidance for enrollment, financial aid, registration, and payment plan support!
2. Use the [Online Resource Center \(ORC\)](#) including Office 365 support, password resets, and username information.
3. **In-person workshops, online tutorials and more services** are available in Desire2Learn, Student Portal, Degree Works, and Office 365.

4. **Chat with our staff on TECH Talk**, our live chat service. TECH Talk can be accessed on the student portal and on TECH Central's website, or by texting questions to (843) 375-8552.



HGTC LIBRARY:

Each campus location has a library where HGTC students, faculty, and staff may check out materials with their HGTC ID. All three HGTC campus libraries are equipped with computers to support academic research and related school work; printing is available as well. Visit the [Library](#) website for more information or call (843) 349-5268.

STUDENT TESTING:

Testing in an **online/hybrid** course and in **make-up exam** situations may be accomplished in a variety of ways:

- Test administered within D2L.
- Test administered in writing on paper.
- Test administered through Publisher Platforms (which may have a fee associated with the usage)

Furthermore, tests may have time limits and/or require a proctor.

Proctoring can be accomplished either face-to-face at an approved site or online through our online proctoring service. To find out more about proctoring services, please visit the [Online Testing](#) section of the HGTC's Testing Center webpage.

The **Instructor Information Sheet** will have more details on test requirements for your course.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

HGTC is committed to providing an accessible environment for students with disabilities. Inquiries may be directed to HGTC's [Accessibility and Disability Service webpage](#). The Accessibility and Disability staff will review documentation of the student's disability and, in a confidential setting with the student, develop an educational accommodation plan.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to self-identify as needing accommodations and to provide acceptable documentation. After a student has self-identified and submitted documentation of a disability, accommodations may be determined, accepted, and provided.

STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Horry-Georgetown Technical College shall not discriminate in employment or personnel decisions or in student admissions or in student decisions, or in all other segments of the College community on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, marital or family status, veteran status, political ideas, sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including, but not limited to, lactation, in the educational programs and activities which it operates, and the college is prohibited from discrimination in such manner by applicable laws.

TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination.

HGTC prohibits the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and will provide students, faculty, and staff with necessary information regarding prevention, policies, procedures, and resources.

Any student, or other member of the college community, who believes that they have been a victim of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may file a report with the college's Title IX Coordinator or campus law enforcement*.

*Faculty and Staff are required to report these incidents to the Title IX Coordinator when involving students. The only HGTC employees exempt from mandatory reporting are licensed mental health professionals (only as part of their job description such as counseling services).

All inquiries regarding the federal laws as they relate to discrimination on the basis of sex may be directed to Tamatha Sells, Title IX Coordinator, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107B, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5218, tamatha.sells@hgtc.edu.

OTHER INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICIES:

Other employee and applicant inquiries concerning the federal laws and their application to the College may be directed to Jacquelyne Synder, Vice President, Human Resources and Employee Relations & the College's Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 200C, Room 205B, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5212, jacquelyne.snyder@hgtc.edu.

Other student and prospective student inquiries concerning the federal laws and their application to the College or any student decision may be directed to Dr. Melissa Batten, Vice

President, Student Affairs, Section 504 & Title II Coordinator Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107A, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5228, Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu.