

EVIDENCE

COURSE DESCRIPTION and SYLLABUS

FALL 2017

Professor: Jacqueline M. Houlette
Office: Blakely Advocacy Institute
Office Hours: by appointment or at 7:00 p.m. before class meets

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Course No.: Law 5357
Class Time: 7:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. T TH
Class Dates: August 22, 2017 - November 21, 2017
Final Exam: December 9, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Textbooks: EVIDENCE, George Fisher, Third Edition Foundation Press
COURTROOM EVIDENCE HANDBOOK – Goode &
Wellborn – 2017-2018 Student Edition, West Publishing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines the reasoning and policies behind the Federal Rules of Evidence and the application of those rules. Topics include relevance, hearsay, impeachment, opinion and expert testimony, authentication, and judicial notice.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Students must be prepared to discuss assigned material at each class meeting. Poor performance in class may result in an unfavorable grade adjustment. Similarly, exceptional performance may be rewarded with a favorable grade adjustment.

ATTENDANCE: The University of Houston Law Center's attendance policy applies. If a student fails to attend eighty percent (80%) of the classes, the student will be dropped from the class.

GRADING: Grades will be based on the final exam and class participation.

FINAL EXAM: The Final Exam will be closed book and will include multiple choice questions, short answer/essay questions, and "true/false and explain why" questions.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND RELATED READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT</u> (Pages)
8/22/2017	Basic Procedure and Relevance	1-80
8/24/2017	Relevance/Specialized Relevance Rules	80-113
8/29/2017	Specialized Relevance Rules	113-145
8/31/2017	Character Evidence	145-193
9/5/2017	Character Evidence	193-252
9/7/2017	Habit/Impeachment	252-317
9/12/2017	Rape Shield	318-361
9/14/2017	Competency/Hearsay	362-419
9/19/2017	Hearsay	420-474
9/21/2017	Hearsay	475 -510
9/26/2017	Hearsay	510-548
9/28/2017	Guest Lecture - A Family Judge's Perspective on Common Evidence Mistakes in the Courtroom	
10/3/2017	Hearsay	548-585
10/5/2017	Confrontation Clause	586-646
10/10/2017	Confrontation Clause	646-694
10/12/2017	Confrontation Clause	694-734
10/17/2017	Lay Opinions/ Expert Testimony	735-783
10/19/2017	Guest Lecture - A Criminal Judge's Perspective on Common Evidence Mistakes in the Courtroom	
10/24/2017	Expert Testimony	783-825
10/26/2017	Expert Testimony	825-856

10/31/2017	Expert Testimony	856- 893
11/2/2017	Authentication	894-928
11/7/2017	Judicial Notice/Optional Completeness Practice Tips	
11/9/2017	Guest Lecture - A Civil Judge's Perspective on Common Evidence Mistakes in the Courtroom	
11/14/2017	Written Discovery and Evidence	
11/16/2017	Depositions and Evidence	
11/21/2017	LAST DAY OF CLASS- REVIEW	
12/9/2017	FINAL EXAM - 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know who is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in service at convenient locations and hours around campus; http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html).