WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION  

COURSE TITLE: Criminal Evidence and Procedures  
COURSE NUMBER: CRJ 411  

I. RATIONALE:  
The law of criminal evidence impacts the outcome of every criminal investigation and court case. A working knowledge of the rules of evidence will provide a foundation for decision making for the criminal justice practitioner.  

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:  

GOAL A  
The student will become acquainted with the historical underpinnings and development of the law of criminal evidence.  

Learning objectives: The student will:  

A-1 Discuss the historical sources of the law of criminal evidence.  
A-2 Examine the U.S. Constitution and Amendments to identify basic rights embodied in the law of evidence.  
A-3 Define relevant, reliable and competent evidence.  
A-4 Understand the American adversary and accusatorial system.  
A-5 Explain the use of evidence to determine guilt or innocence throughout the criminal justice process.  

GOAL B  
The student will demonstrate an understanding of the types of evidence and how they are used.  

Learning objectives: The student will:  

B-1 Define evidence.  
B-2 Differentiate types of evidence: direct and circumstantial.  
B-3 Understand the use of direct evidence and circumstantial evidence.  
B-4 Review the use of videotapes, photographs, documents and writings as evidence.  
B-5 Discuss the use of scientific evidence.  
B-6 Examine the burden of production, the burden of persuasion and the reasonable doubt standard.  
B-7 Discuss the use of presumptions and inferences.  

GOAL C
The student will develop an understanding of the law of criminal evidence concerning witnesses and their testimony.

**Learning objectives:** The student will:

- C-1 Address the types, qualification and credibility of witnesses.
- C-2 Describe the trial process as it relates to the examination of witnesses including direct and cross-examination.
- C-3 Understand the role of the trial judge and judicial notice.
- C-4 Review privilege and its impact on the introduction of evidence.
- C-5 Define and identify hearsay and hearsay exceptions.

**GOAL D**
The student will become aware of how and why relevant evidence may be excluded from the trial process and determination of guilt or innocence.

**Learning objectives:** The student will:

- D-1 Explain the exclusionary rule.
- D-2 Understand the “fruit of the poisonous tree” doctrine.
- D-3 Identify exceptions to the exclusionary rule.
- D-4 Discuss exceptions to the exclusion of evidence relating to the administrative function of government.

**GOAL E**
The student will develop an understanding of issues related to gathering, searching for, obtaining and collecting evidence.

**Learning objectives:** The student will:

- E-1 Examine the taking of a defendant’s confession and its use at trial.
- E-2 Address the issue of suspect identification and its admissibility during both the Investigative and trial process.
- E-3 Review all aspects of search and seizure of person, home and vehicle.
- E-4 Answer questions relating to the collection of evidence at the crime scene and the chain of custody.

**GOAL F**
The student will use advance writing and oral communication skills.

**Learning objectives:** The student will:

- F-1 Prepare and present written reports using APA style.
- F-2 Use appropriate oral communication skills in class presentations.