

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Course Number: LECJ-230 Department: Law Enforcement

Course Title: Criminal Evidence Semester: Spring Year: 2003

Course Objective	Competencies
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To give the law enforcement officer and student an understanding of the field of evidence from a practical standpoint in order to enable them to do their jobs in a competent manner.2. To acquaint the student with generally employed rules and principles of evidence, both tangible and intangible, and its admissibility in the courtroom.3. To familiarize the student with particular rules of evidence and procedures as related to and employed in the Massachusetts Court System.4. To relate various types and rules of evidence to major legal decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, having a material effect and substantial bearing on police investigations in such major areas as Arrest, Searches, Search Warrants, Confessions, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The major parts of a criminal trial, beginning with the jury selection through appeal, are reviewed.• The student will be able to identify the three major kinds of evidence: physical, documentary, testimony, and how they are used in court. They are introduced to the definitions of the other types of evidence.• Students must be able to recognize the hearsay rule and the major exceptions to the rule.• The nine methods of impeachment of a witness are studied.• The six major testimonial privileges are studied in detail. These include: attorney-client, husband-wife, clergy-penitent, doctor-patient, officer-informant, and news reporter-source.• The use of lay witnesses and expert witnesses and opinion testimony is covered.• Transcripts and trial exhibits from an actual trial are used in class. The student must identify the types of evidence, use of hearsay and exceptions, types of witnesses and testimonial privileges.