SYLLABUS for Professor Parker’s EVIDENCE, Fall 2015 (Law 222, § 1)

Course Materials and TWEN site. The required materials for this course are (1) the Park and Friedman casebook entitled *Evidence* (12th ed. 2013: Foundation Press) (cited below as “CB”); and (2) a softbound booklet entitled *Federal Rules of Evidence 2015-2016 Edition* (West Group) (prepared by Capra) (cited below as the “Rules Booklet”). The objectives of the Evidence course are discussed in Part I of the Introductory Lecture to be posted at the course TWEN site; recommendations for optional collateral reading are given in Part III of that Lecture.

Additional required and optional materials, or changes to reading assignments, will be posted to the course’s TWEN site. For this reason among others, registration at the TWEN site is required of all enrolled students.

Class Meetings. This is a three-hour course that will meet twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4-5:15 P.M., in one 75-minute session without a break. Given the importance of oral advocacy in Evidence, student participation in class discussions (usually by advocating or ruling on a point of evidence law in a hypothetical case, taken from the casebook hypotheticals or from a variation on one of the assigned cases) will be stressed.

Reading Assignments. Most of the following reading assignments are identified to tentative dates for class discussion; others are assigned only for individual reading, and will not be brought up during class except by student questions. As to the material for class discussion, ineluctably there will be some slippage in the schedule, and the student is responsible for remaining prepared until the materials are reached, like an advocate waiting to be heard by a court. In connection with all reading assignments to the Casebook, you should review and study the pertinent provisions of the Federal Rules of Evidence (in the Rules Booklet), which will be our primary model of evidence law throughout the semester, and the California Evidence Code (also in the Rules Booklet), which will be used as a secondary example of codified evidence rules.

Topics and Reading Assignments

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<th>Topics and Reading Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>I. Introduction to Evidence:  Introductory Lecture (TWEN site); Casebook Chapter 1, CB1-77; familiarization with Rules Booklet</td>
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<td>II. Fundamental Rules of Admissibility</td>
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<td>A. Basic Relevance:</td>
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<td>1. Relevance and Materiality: Inference Introduced: CB 79-88; edited version of Sherrod v. Berry, at the TWEN site; TWEN supplement entitled “re-post of Evidence for Procedure students 2013”</td>
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<td>2. Relevance and Prejudice: CB88-108</td>
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Topics and Reading Assignments, continued

II. Fundamental Rules of Admissibility, continued

B. Hearsay

1. Hearsay Defined

Hearsay Defined I: CB 197-216 (through the hypotheticals preceding Zenni) 9/1
Hearsay Defined II; First-Hand Knowledge Compared: CB216-240; CB783-85 (in Chapter 11); TWEN supp. on non-human statements 9/3

2. Hearsay Exceptions

Party Admissions I-personal and vicarious: CB250-70 9/10
Party Admissions II-co-conspirator statements: CB271-80 9/15
Res Gestae group—Spontaneous & Contemporaneous Declarations; Preliminary Determinations:
Part I: CB281-95, plus FRE 104; TWEN supp. (Soles and Booth) 9/15 2d topic
Part II: New Constitutional Developments: CB296-315 9/17
State of Mind: CB315-39 9/22
Medical Diagnosis; Former Testimony: CB339-54 9/24
Declarations Against Interest; Dying Declarations: CB355-86 9/29
Prior Identification; Past Recollection Recorded: CB 386-403 10/1
Business and Public Records I: CB404-30 10/6
Business and Public Records II: CB430-64; TWEN supp. (Oates) 10/8
[no class on 10/13; “Fall Recess”]
Topics and Reading Assignments, further continued

II. Fundamental Rules of Admissibility, further continued

Hearsay Exceptions—Miscellaneous and Residual: CB465-84 10/15

C. Advanced Relevance:

Introduction to Character Evidence: CB108-35 10/15
(2d topic)

Character versus non-character uses; “prior bad acts”;
Habit and Custom Compared and Contrasted: CB136-62 10/20

Character in Flux; Rape Shield and other developments; Similar Happenings;
Subsequent Measures; Settlement and Pleas: CB162-95 10/22

III. Forms of Evidence

A. The Law of Witnesses

1. Competency, Cross-Examination, and Impeachment:
   Class discussion: CB 494-531 (through the hypos preceding Luce) 10/27

   Independent reading: CB485-94; 697-726

2. Impeachment, continued: CB495-526 10/29

B. Writings: Authentication and Best Evidence: CB 669-96 11/3

C. Judicial Notice: Judicial Notice: CB727-44 11/3
(2d topic)

IV. Proof and Presumptions: CB745-81; TWEN supp. (to be posted) 11/5

V. Privileges

A. Professional:

   Attorney-Client: CB563-90 11/5
(2d topic)

   Physicians and Psychotherapists: CB590-608 11/10

B. Personal and Miscellaneous: CB608-40 11/12
Topics and Reading Assignments, further continued

V. Privileges, continued

C. Governmental: CB641-67

VI. Opinions and Expertise:

   Part I: CB783-85 (review); CB785-89 (class discussion); CB789-814 & 825-33 (independent reading); 815-25 & 833-52
   11/19

   Part II: CB852-58 (independent reading); 858-900 (class discussion); TWEN supp. (to be posted);
   11/24-12/1

Academic Policies

1. Class attendance is required in order to earn academic credit, in accordance with the academic policies of the School. Under those policies, students certify their own attendance. There is no need to notify the instructor regarding inability to attend, either before or after the class. All absences from class will be deemed excused by the instructor for purposes of the School’s attendance policies. For purposes of assigning class participation grades, absences naturally will reduce the opportunity for the instructor to form an impression. However, one or two absences when called upon ordinarily will not produce a negative mark, and need not be explained.

2. Making audio, video, or voice-recognition recordings of class sessions is prohibited, and will not be considered as a substitute for attendance.

3. A seating chart will be distributed at the first class meeting. Subscription of the seating chart is mandatory. Students also are required to complete index cards which will be used when calling upon students in class and for recording students’ class performance marks. Failure to submit a completed card will result in a negative class performance mark.

4. Student participation in class discussions is mandatory when called upon the instructor, and will be graded based upon the instructor’s contemporaneous judgment. It is expected that each student’s participation will be an individual effort, unassisted by “texting” or the like, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Failure to respond when called upon (whether due to absence or other reasons), lack of preparation, or simply poor performance, will result in negative evaluations, though of course not equally negative. Evaluations of class performance may be considered in assigning final grades for the course. The relative weighting of class marks and written examination grades will be determined by the instructor at the end of the semester, and may vary by student, depending upon the nature and quality of class performance or lack thereof. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the final grade by more than one gradation, in either direction, based upon a student’s class performance or lack thereof.
Academic Policies, continued:

5. There is a TWEN site for the course, accessible to all students. Registration on the TWEN site is mandatory for all students. Both mandatory and optional materials (e.g., this Syllabus and any subsequent changes, supplementary materials) will be made available to students through the TWEN site. Notices to students will be emailed through the TWEN site. Each student must assure that the registered email address remains correct and functional. Incorrect or obsolete addresses, or over-quota mailboxes, will prevent delivery of essential notices. Participation in the discussion forum at the TWEN site is optional. Students with substantive questions are encouraged to post their comments or questions publicly on the discussion forum, as the typical student’s concerns are likely to be shared by classmates. The TWEN site also may be used to send private emails to the instructor, if public discussion is inappropriate.

6. The instructor's office is Room 421. Office hours will be on Thursdays at 2:00-3:00 P.M., beginning on September 3. If visits outside of office hours are necessary, please email in advance (jparke3@gmu.edu) to arrange an appointment, or see my faculty secretary, Ms. Yen Kha, on the Fourth Floor (Room 433N). When emailing or leaving messages, please indicate what days and hours would be convenient, and give a telephone number where you may be reached and the appropriate hours to call.

7. In addition to class marks, there will be a final examination, which may be either an essay or short-answer type, or both types combined, and may be either open-book or closed-book. Typically, this instructor’s examinations are open-almost-everything, in that students may bring and use anything they wish (e.g., custom or commercial outlines, hornbooks, nutshells, etc., in addition to the course materials), with the exceptions of (1) another person, (2) a communications device, and (3) a computer, tablet, smart phone, or similar device, when used as an information-retrieval device. Any use of such a person or device, whether within or outside the examination, is prohibited during the administration of the examination. Provided that the use is supported by the Records office, computers may be used as typing devices only. Students must bring the current Rules Booklet with them to the exam (previous editions of the Rules Booklet are not adequate substitutes). Unexcused absence from the final examination will result in a failing grade. Absence from the final examination excused by the instructor will result in the administration of a make-up examination that may differ substantially from the regular examination. The regular final examination is scheduled for 12 noon on Monday, December 14, 2015. Potential scheduling conflicts must be brought to the attention of the Records Office, and then the instructor, at the earliest possible time.