

CSUS 891 (005)

Role of the Expert Witness

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The purpose of this course is to make the professional in any field familiar with the lawyer and the lawyer's viewpoints. As society gets more complicated the role of professional, technically trained people in litigation continually grows, and their testimony is frequently decisive. Typical issues would be the value of a piece of art, the design of an automobile, appropriate medical treatment for a particular patient, the safety of a nuclear power plant, the source of a toxic chemical in groundwater, appropriate recovery plans for an endangered species and, of course, all the identification issues involved in forensic science.

Class will meet for 2 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:10 a.m. in Room 165 Communication Arts Building. The readings will be from the professor's book, **Law for the Expert Witness**, 4th Ed, 2011. The readings will then be discussed in class. After that the students will be assigned mock trials to participate in and present testimony to the class with other students serving as "jurors."

The final grade will be based 40% on classroom participation, 40% on performance in mock trials and 20% on the "juror" comments.

THERE WILL BE NO EXAMINATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

These are my best current estimates; we may be slower.

Aug. 28	Introduction – no assignment
Sept. 2	Bronstein, Ch. 1, 2
Sept. 4	Bronstein, Ch. 3-6
Sept. 9	Bronstein, Ch. 7
Sept. 11	Bronstein, Ch. 8, 9
Sept. 16	Bronstein, Ch. 10-12
Sept. 18	Bronstein, Ch. 13, 14
Sept. 23	Bronstein, Ch. 15-17
Sept. 25	Bronstein, Ch. 18-20
Sept. 30	Bronstein, Ch. 21, 22
Oct. 2	Discussion of first student mock trial
Week of Oct. 7	Videotape demonstration, time & place TBA

Remainder of semester will be spent in student mock trials, probably one every two weeks.