

ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:	CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
COURSE NUMBER:	LAW E547
PROFESSOR(S) NAME:	Jeff Berk, Esq.
PROFESSOR CONTACT INFO:	707-528-8185 or berk5@att.net
SCHEDULE:	Term: Fall Semester 2014 Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00PM, Room # 103
UNITS:	2
COURSE TYPE:	Elective
PREREQUISITES:	Completion of LAW I401–Introduction to Law and LAW I402–Legal Research and Writing, or equivalent.
COREQUISITES:	None
TEXTS AND MATERIALS: (Identification of any texts, materials and references used throughout the course.)	Thumb drive/Flash drive with lectures and cases (Must be purchased from the Empire College Bookstore) – will be available after Summer Exam period complete.
COURSE DESCRIPTION:	This course will teach students the fundamental legal framework of California cities and counties. It focuses on both substantive areas of municipal law and the process required when local governments legislate and adjudicate. The course will provide practical information, discuss current issues facing local governments, and discuss the most recent, cutting-edge cases.
COURSE OBJECTIVES / ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES: (Description of what students will be expected to know and be able to do at the end of the course. What skills or knowledge will be gained by the end of the course.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn about the framework, issues and law of California governmental entities. • The objective of this class is to teach students the fundamental legal principles and concepts involved in California government law. Individual classes will include: the Brown Act, Public Records Act, Land Use, Public Sector Employment Law, Government Pension Plans, and Governmental Litigation, among others. <p>Students generally can expect to spend a <u>minimum</u> of two hours/per hour of instruction time on assigned readings and briefing cases. For example, a 3-hour class would require at least 6 hours of outside preparation time per week.</p>
FORMAT OVERVIEW / METHOD OF INSTRUCTION (Description of how the course will be taught, including breakdown of lecture, practicum, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course material will be presented in a lecture-discussion and Socratic method format. • Students should be prepared to discuss all assigned cases. • Class participation and attendance are mandatory.
EXAMS:	Students will be required to attend a meeting of a local government (city or county), or an administrative hearing involving a governmental entity. Students should review the Agenda before attending the meeting or hearing, so that they will be familiar with the topics discussed. Following the meeting/hearing, students will present to the class what they observed and learned. The focus of the presentations should be on the process used and any areas of substantive law that were involved. Each presentation should be about ten to fifteen minutes.

	<p>Final Exam</p> <p>Exams begin promptly at 6 p.m. Take-home exams and papers must be submitted to the Law School office by 6 p.m. on the due date, unless otherwise noted. All students must take examinations as scheduled. It is recognized that in special circumstances and due to emergencies, it may be necessary to schedule delayed examinations. An emergency is defined as a serious illness or injury to the student or a member of his or her immediate family. Special Circumstances are defined as other situations that, in the opinion of the Dean, are sufficient to warrant delay in taking examinations. Any student taking delayed examinations <u>must have the prior written approval of the Dean.</u> No examination may be taken <i>prior</i> to the day of the regularly scheduled examination. If delayed examinations are approved by the Dean, <u>a fee of \$75 will be charged for each such exam taken.</u> Failure to complete an exam is not sufficient reason for a late or retake exam.</p>															
<p>GRADING / ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:</p>	<p>Empire College grading scale:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>90%-100%</td> <td>A</td> <td>Outstanding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80%-89%</td> <td>B</td> <td>Superior</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70%-79%</td> <td>C</td> <td>Satisfactory</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65%-69%</td> <td>D</td> <td>Unsatisfactory</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Below 65%</td> <td>F</td> <td>Failing – no credit</td> </tr> </table> <p>Empire College uses the following grading system for electives: <u>Pass/Fail:</u> 65 - 100 - P Pass/Credit 64 and Below - F Fail/No Credit (Only numeric grades in Required courses are used to calculate grade point average.)</p> <p>Presentation on an administrative hearing or government meeting you attend.</p>	90%-100%	A	Outstanding	80%-89%	B	Superior	70%-79%	C	Satisfactory	65%-69%	D	Unsatisfactory	Below 65%	F	Failing – no credit
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70%-79%	C	Satisfactory														
65%-69%	D	Unsatisfactory														
Below 65%	F	Failing – no credit														
<p>ATTENDANCE:</p>	<p>Regular and punctual attendance is essential for the successful completion of law school. Students should plan to attend every class. A minimum of 80 percent attendance is required. Roll will be taken at each class. Make-up classes will be scheduled if needed.</p>															
<p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p>	<p>Weekly assignments</p>															
<p>Week 1: 9/2/14</p>	<p>Topic: Introduction / Nature of Public Agencies</p> <p>Course Materials, Week 1</p> <p>Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.</p>															
<p>Week 2: 9/9/14</p>	<p>Topic: Rulemaking & Due Process</p> <p>Course Materials, Week 2</p> <p>Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for</p>															

	pertinent week.
Week 3: 9/16/14	Topic: Brown Act Course Materials, Week 3 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.
Week 4: 9/23/14	Topic: Public Records Act Course Materials, Week 4 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.
Week 5: 9/30/14	Topic: Public Sector Employment Law Course Materials, Week 5 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.
Week 6: 10/7/14	Topic: Public Sector Employment Law Course Materials, Week 6 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.
Week 7: 10/14/14	Topic: Regulating Business & Personal Conduct Course Materials, Week 7 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.
Week 8: 10/21/14	Student Presentations
Week 9: 10/28/14	Student Presentations
Week 10: 11/4/14	Topic: Land Use Course Materials, Week 10 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.
Week 11: 11/11/14	Topic: Public Pension Plans Course Materials, Week 11 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.
Week 12: 11/18/14	Topic: California Government Claims Act Course Materials, Week 12 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for

	pertinent week.
Week 13: 11/25/14	Topic: Writs Under CCP Sections 1085 and 1094.5 Course Materials, Week 13 Preview lecture slides and read all cases from thumb drive for pertinent week.
Week 14: 12/2/14	Review
Week 15: Exam date TBA	Final Exam Date will be published by Law School Office –be sure to check published Exam Schedule.

Syllabus is subject to change.