



ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:	INTRODUCTION TO LAW
COURSE NUMBER:	LAW I401
UNITS:	1
COURSE TYPE:	Required
PROFESSOR(S) NAME:	Louise J. Belle, Esq.
PROFESSOR CONTACT INFO:	ljbelleslettres@gmail.com
SCHEDULE:	June 2014, Tuesdays 6-7:30p.m., Room # 211
PREREQUISITES:	None
COREQUISITES:	None
TEXTS AND MATERIALS:	<i>An Introduction to the Anglo-American Legal System, 4th Edition;</i> E. Bodenheimer et al. West Publishing; ISBN: 0314150870.
COURSE DESCRIPTION:	Introduces the student to the basic concepts of the law, the historical roots of common law and equity, the precedent system in its practical operation, the modes of reasoning used by courts/attorneys and the fundamentals of statutory interpretation.
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.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will gain basic knowledge of legal concepts. 2. Students will gain basic knowledge of the historical roots of common law and equity. 3. Students will gain basic knowledge of the case precedent system in its practical operation. 4. Students will begin learning modes of reasoning used by courts and attorneys. 5. Students will learn the fundamentals of statutory interpretation. 6. Students will gain basic knowledge of the U.S. legal system, emphasizing analysis of statutory and case law. <p>Students should 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.)	<p>Course material will be presented in a lecture-discussion and Socratic method format.</p> <p>Students should brief all assigned cases, and read all other assigned materials.</p>
EXAMS:	<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</p>

	<p>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>This class is graded as follows: <u>Pass/Fail Classes:</u> 65 - 100 P Pass/Credit 64 and below F Fail/No Credit</p> <p><u>Grading Breakdown:</u> Pass/fail, based on a 2-hour final examination (85%) and class participation (15%). Both the quantity and quality of participation will be considered.</p> <p>Brief all cases (including <i>The Case of the Speluncean Explorers</i> for the first day of class) unless otherwise directed. Read all “Notes and Questions” and “Problems” as well as the cases. Be prepared to present the cases and discuss the assigned material for each class. A portion of the final grade is determined by class participation.</p>
<p>ATTENDANCE:</p>	<p>Regular and punctual attendance is <u>essential</u> for the successful completion of law school. Students should plan to attend every class. Students must attend a minimum of 80% (12 hours, or 8 of 10 classes) of the class sessions during each semester. Roll will be taken at each class. Class attendance is of particular importance in learning the language and concepts of the law.</p> <p>Make-up classes may be scheduled on evenings when classes are not usually held, on weekends, or made up on another night by staying longer. Class sessions that are delayed or canceled because of holidays or policy of Empire College School of Law, and are re-scheduled for a different date are considered regularly scheduled class sessions, not make-up classes. A student who has exceeded the absence limits outlined will be automatically dropped from the course. A student who is dropped from a course will be required to repeat the course at its next offering in order to meet graduation requirements.</p>
<p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p>	<p><u>General note:</u> Brief all cases (including <i>The Case of the Speluncean Explorers</i> for the first day of class) unless otherwise directed. Read all “Notes and Questions” and “Problems” as well as the cases. Be prepared to present the cases and discuss the assigned material for each class. A portion of the final grade is determined by class participation.</p>
<p>Class 1: 6/3/14</p>	<p>Introduction, pp. 1-4. Appendix: <i>The Case of the Speluncean Explorers</i>, pp. 230-252. Note: This assignment is due on the first day of class.</p>
<p>Class 2: 6/10/14</p>	<p>Chapter I: Law and the Process of Classification, pp. 5-25.</p>

Class 3: 6/17/14	Chapter II: Common Law, Equity, and the Development of the Anglo-American Court System, pp. 26-51.
Class 4: 6/24/14	Chapter II (cont.): Common Law, Equity, and the Development of the Anglo-American Court System, pp. 51-78.
No Class on 7/1/14	No Class on 7/1/14
Class 5: 7/8/14	Chapter III: Statutes, Case Law, and Judicial Precedent, pp. 79-118.
Class 6: 7/15/14	Chapter IV: The <i>Ratio Decidendi</i> of a Case, pp. 119-140.
Class 7: 7/22/14	Chapter V: Logic and Policy in Legal Reasoning, pp. 141-165.
Class 8: 7/29/14	Chapter VI: Fundamentals of Statutory Interpretation, pp. 166-189.
Class 9: 8/5/14	Chapter VI (cont.): Fundamentals of Statutory Interpretation, pp. 189-229.
Class 10: Tuesday 8/12/14 6-8pm	Final Examination will be a 2-hour in-class examination

Syllabi subject to change.