

Course Syllabus

Department : Legal Assistant
Course Title : Family Law
Section Name : LGLA 1355
Start Date : 01/17/2012
End Date : 05/04/2012
Modality : FACE-TO-FACE
Credits : 3 hours

Instructor Information

Name : John W. Cliff, Jr. - Adjunct

OC Email : jcatty@cableone.net

OC Phone # : (432) 332-8538

Monitored and open labs available daily. Help from the instructor is available at your request. Appointments can be set up with instructor. Tutoring is available through the LRC.

Course Description

This course presents fundamental concepts of family law with emphasis on the paralegal's role. Topics include formal and informal marriages, divorce, annulment, marital property, and the parent-child relationship.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None.

[Scans](#)

(6, 7, 9)

Course Objectives

- 1.1 Describe the historical origins of the community site.
- 1.2 Define key legal terms in Family Law.
- 1.3 List the computer hardware used in the law office setting and explain its function.
- 1.4* Define major components of the litigation process and how it relates to Family Law
- 1.5 Define the role of the paralegal in the Family Law process.
- 1.6 List and define the key documents in the Family Law process.
- 1.7* List and explain the function of the court system.
- 1.8 *Compare and contrast the criminal and Family Law process.
- 1.9 Define the role of the attorney in the Family Law process.

*INDICATES INTEGRATED, CORE CURRICULUM SKILLS

(Math, Reading, Communication, Technological Literacy and/or Critical Thinking)

Required Readings/Materials

Sampson & Tindall's Texas Family Code Annotated: August 2011 Edition; Thomson/West

Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)

Dates	Assignments	Description
1/18	Orientation TFC Chapter 1	Marriage: Definitions and Public Policy
1/25	TFC Chapter 2	Marriage: Application, Underage, Ceremonial, and Informal Marriage
2/1	TFC Chapters 3 & 7	Marriage: Marital Property and Award of Marital Property
2/8	TFC Chapters 4 and 5	Marriage: Property Agreements and Homestead
2/15	TFC Chapter 6	Marriage: Dissolution of Marriage
2/22	TFC Chapters 8 & 9	Marriage: Post-Dissolution Maintenance and Post-Decree Proceedings
2/29	TEST NUMBER 1	Material Covered since start of class
3/7	Review of Test Number 1 TFC Chapters 101, 102 and 104	Test Number 1 SAPCR: Definitions, Standing, and Special Evidence Rules
3/14	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
3/21	TFC 105, 107, and 155	SAPCR: Settings/Hearings/Orders, Special Appointments, and Continuing, Exclusive Jurisdiction
3/28 & 4/4	TFC Chapters 151 and 153	SAPCR: Rights & Duties of Conservators, Conservatorship, Possession and Access
4/11	TFC Chapter 154	SAPCR: Child Support
4/18	TFC Chapters 156 and 157	SAPCR: Modification and Enforcement
4/25	TEST NUMBER TWO	Material covered since Test No. 1
5/2	Review of Test Number Two and for Final Exam	Test Number Two and material covered since beginning of class
5/9	FINAL EXAM	COMPREHENSIVE

GRADING SCALES	GRADING PERCENTAGES
A = 90-100	Class Attendance and Participation - 10%
B = 80-89	Lower of two non-cumulative tests - 20%
C = 70-79	Higher of two non-cumulative tests - 30%
D = 60-69	Final Exam - 40%
F = 59 and below	

DEPARTMENTAL POLICY:

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED OR MAKE UP TESTS GIVEN

Special Needs

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Learning Resource Center (Library)

The Library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the [LRC's catalog \(print books, videos, e-books\)](#) and [databases \(journal and magazine articles\)](#). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the "[Ask a Librarian](#)" service provide additional help.

Student E-mail

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Student Portal

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

Technical Support

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm.

Important School Policies

For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or student's and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).

Disclaimer

***Students are responsible for checking for changes frequently as this syllabus may be updated often, as needed.**