

GOVT 379 Family Law

Syllabus

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COURSE CREDIT: 3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Family law involves the formation and dissolution of domestic relations, including the law of marriage, annulment, separation and dissolution, maintenance, adoption, and custody and support of children. This course will study the differences between community and separate property, the classification of property, and the impact of such classifications. The role of the paralegal in family law practice and the significance of mediation of domestic issues will also be discussed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course begins with an overview of divorce law and reviews important aspects to consider in property division, alimony, maintenance, custody, and support in a divorce action. The course also describes post-divorce collection motions and collection options. Other topics within family law which are studied include common law marriage, prenuptial agreements, annulments, civil unions, adoptions, paternity, and neglect actions. Students will learn common terminology used in family law and many of the procedural concerns to consider in these areas of law.

TEXTS, READINGS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:

Required Textbooks: (available through the CLS Bookstore at 1-800-522-7737)
Krause, Harry D., *Family Law in a Nutshell*, 4th edition. St Paul: West Group
ISBN 0314144412
Cummins, Robert R., *Basics of Legal Document Preparation*, 1st edition. Albany:
Delmar Publishers Inc., 1997. ISBN 0827367996

Recommended:

Garner, B, ed. (2006) *Black's Law Dictionary*, (3rd pocket ed.). Thomson
West. ISBN 0314158626

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students must complete all tests and coursework with a 70 percent or higher to pass this class.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE

Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

Grade Distribution:

6 Quizzes	50 points each
6 Written Assignments	50 points each
Total Points	600