

INTRODUCTION TO SUBSTANTIVE LAW 21:790:463:62

(SPRING 2022) (Topics in Am. Pol & Policy)

Professor Todd M. Galante

Index No. 02212

Wednesday Evenings 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Classroom: 101 – Hill Hall

Office: Hill Hall Room 718

Office Hours: Thurs. 4:30 pm to 5:30 p.m. and by
Appointment

University Office Phone: 973-353-5105

Law Office: 973-661-0710

Cell Phone: 201-315-6444

[Email: Todd.Galante@Rutgers.edu](mailto:Todd.Galante@Rutgers.edu)

[Emer: Tgalante@PiroZinnaLaw.com](mailto:Tgalante@PiroZinnaLaw.com)

Required Books/Materials

Introduction to Law (Loose-Leaf Version)

(7th Ed. – 2020 Copyright)

ISBN -- 9781337414166

Authors: Beth Walston-Dunham and John D. DeLeo

Must Have Loose-Leaf (printed text)

and

Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth Pocket Edition (2021 Copyright)

Author: Bryan A. Garner

ISBN – 9781731931610

Course Description

“Introduction to Substantive Law — Learning the Basic Nuts and Bolts of Law”

In my Introduction to Law & Legal Research class students learned how to “think like lawyers”, read and write like lawyers, reason like lawyers and present factual arguments like lawyers. **In my Introduction to Substantive Law class students will first review the structure of state and federal courts/court systems and the separation of powers under the US Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students will then learn and use: (a) applicable legal terminology; (b) the difference between procedural law and substantive law; (c) certain areas of substantive law and learn about contract law, tort law, family law, employment law, property law, and**

more. Students will also learn how to draft basic pleadings — complaints, answers to complaints, legal briefs, etc.

There is a required textbook for this class. I will utilize various readings therefrom and assign writing assignments, case study analysis, and class discussion/debate. I will also utilize the Socratic Method/Socratic debate. Attendance and class participation are mandatory. **YOU MUST READ MATERIALS BEFORE CLASS AND BE PREPARED FOR CLASS DISCUSSION.**

Participation Requirement

Class participation is required as part of my class. Students must be prepared for each class, having read in advance the required materials, being apprised and familiar with current legal events, issues and debates (in detail), as well as being able to meaningfully participate and contribute to class discussions and debates involving all the above. Students should also follow current legal issues/matters, U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments/opinions, as well as economic, political, and other news, foreign affairs, and timely social/public policy issues. Students will be required to present papers and arguments/debate. **Failure to be prepared and participate will negatively affect a student's final grade.**

Attendance Policy

DO NOT MISS CLASS. Experience has demonstrated that students who miss more than one (1) class generally do not perform well on exams, class discussion/participation or final grade. Thus, attendance is required. If a student has more than one unexcused absence his/her grade will be automatically reduced by ½ grade for each unexcused absence after the first. If the student knows in advance that he or she must miss more than one class, it is strongly recommended that the student register for another course.

While an excusable absence will not count against you, if you have more than one absence and/or an unexcused absence you likely will not do well in the class. (Excusable absences consist of a properly documented: (a) personal illness, (b) illness of a student's child or parent for whom who student is caretaker, or (c) death of a loved one -- immediate family.) If you have an excusable absence you must notify me of same in writing before class and provide proper supporting documentation upon return to class at our next session. Failure to timely comply will result in recordation of an unexcused absence. Doctor's notes are required for excused absence. I take attendance at every class and you must be present to be marked in attendance. Don't plan on leaving class early. I want you to get your money's worth and really enjoy teaching the subject matter. I assume you will enjoy learning it, hence your signing up for the class.

General Rules of Interaction/Respect

We will debate current political issues/events in class. Thus, students are expected and required to have timely completed assigned reading and other assignments in order to meaningfully contribute to class discussions. Students are also required to be up on current events and facts. Students are to be respectful of other students, the professor and any guest speakers. Students must also comport themselves in a mature and professional manner. Failure to do so is likely to result in a reduction of your final grade.

I am planning on having guest speakers during the semester. I will arrange and work them into the semester schedule and advise of same as we proceed. You may expect lawyers/judges and possibly others.

Exams

Students are responsible for all assigned materials/content presented in the textbook, eBook, lectures, other assigned readings, exhibited or assigned film(s), handouts, class debates, guest speakers, and all other materials and information disseminated by me during the semester. **Everything is fair game, but more importantly, you will see that most of what you learn ties together and that I expect and will require you to demonstrate your understanding and mastery of the materials and information, as well as showcase your ability to respond to exam questions or presentation requirements in a way which highlights your knowledge, complete understanding and application of the subject-matter, materials and what you've learned throughout the semester.**

DO NOT MISS EXAMS/PRESENTATIONS/ORAL ARGUMENTS.

Also, do not ask to reschedule the foregoing because of travel plans. The exam and related schedules have been selected to avoid holidays and conflicts.

The Midterm Exam will be given during class time and on the date scheduled below. Midterm Exam is scheduled for: March 2, 2022 starting at 6:00 PM sharp.

The Final "In Class" or Take Home Exam (I'll decide during the semester) will be scheduled accordingly. If an in-class exam – it will be scheduled for: May 11, 2022 -- 6:20 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. If I allow for a take home exam, I will advise you of same by April 20th and give specifics. The likely date for same will be May 4TH or 11th, 2022.

Grading/Negative Discretion

Grades are based on the following: written/graded assignments and homework (designated as such by me during the semester - If work is not satisfactory, negative affect/reduction in final grade - you are required to timely submit quality work); In-class Oral Argument/Presentation (30% total grade); Midterm Exam (30% total grade); and Final Exam (40% total grade). **I reserve the right to modify the foregoing without prior notice.**

Negative Discretion -- Your overall grade will be reduced for each of the following: You (a) fail to attend class as required; (b) fail to be prepared; (c) fail to meaningfully participate in class discussion/debates; (d) fail to timely submit or complete homework or other assignments; (e) are disrespectful of others, disruptive or generally not paying attention during class (for example: using social media, shopping online, watching sports, et cetera).

THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT OFFERED FOR THIS CLASS

Order of Readings and Lectures

YOU SHALL READ THE ASSIGNED MATERIALS BELOW (AND/OR AS MODIFIED BY ME DURING THE SEMESTER) IN ADVANCE OF EACH CLASS. YOU SHALL ALSO VIEW ANY AND ALL ASSIGNED VIDEOS, FILMS, CASES, AND OTHER MATERIALS IN ADVANCE OF CLASS. I EXPECT YOU TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER THE STUDY QUESTIONS THROUGHOUT AND AT THE END OF EACH CHAPTER. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO TAKE THE PRACTICE TESTS PROVIDED TO TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND RETENTION OF MATERIAL -- QUIZ/EXAM QUESTIONS MAY BE TAKEN FROM THE STUDY QUESTIONS.

Date
Indicated

Readings for Completion Ahead of Each Class Date

Read, view and be prepared to discuss the following prior to class /dates shown. Also, complete other assignments given out during class and/or as stated in Blackboard

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| JAN. 19 | Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 of textbook (Review of Syllabus/Outline of course and discuss chapter readings – American Legal System, The Courts, Legislative and The Executive Branch & Administrative Authority. (Lecture and Discussion) |
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| JAN. 26 | Continue Chapter 4 and then Chapter 5 of textbook – Substantive and Procedural Issues, review of The Declaration of Independence, The US Constitution, and The Bill of Rights. (Lecture and Discussion) |
| FEB. 02 | Chapters 6 and 7 – Jurisdiction and The Legal Profession (Lecture and Discussion) |
| FEB. 09 | Chapter 8 on The Law of Ethics and NJ Rules of Professional Conduct. (Lecture and Discussion) |
| FEB. 16 | Chapter 9 – Torts (Lecture and Discussion) |
| FEB. 23 | Chapter 15 – Criminal Law (Lecture and Discussion) |
| MAR. 02 | MIDTERM EXAM |
| MAR. 09 | Chapter 16 – Criminal Procedure (Lecture and Discussion) |
| MAR. 16 | SPRING RECESS |
| MAR. 23 | Chapter 13 – The Law of Contracts (Lecture and Discussion) |
| MAR. 30 | Chapter 14 – The Law of Business (Lecture and Discussion) |
| APR. 13 | Chapters 10 – Family Law (Lecture and Discussion) |
| APR. 20 | Chapter 12 – Property Law (Lecture and Discussion) |
| APRIL 27 | Chapter 11 – Estates and Probate (LAST CLASS) (Lecture and Discussion) |
| MAY 04 | READING DAYS |
| MAY 11 | IN CLASS FINAL EXAM -- 6:20 to 9:20 p.m. |

(PROFESSOR MAY DECIDE TO GIVE TAKE HOME EXAM. IF SO, THE DATE AND PARTICULARS OF SAME WILL BE ADDRESSED AT THE END OF CLASS ON APRIL 20TH.)

SYLLABUS, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION

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