

**INTRODUCTION TO SUBSTANTIVE LAW 21:790:463:62 (SPRING 2019)**  
**(Topics in Am. Pol & Policy)**

**Professor Todd M. Galante**

Index No. 19562

Thurs. Evenings 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Classroom: 107 – Hill Hall

Office: Hill Hall Room 718

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

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**Required Books/Materials**

**BUNDLE: Introduction to Law, Loose-leaf Version, (7th Ed. – 2020  
Copyright) Plus MindTap Paralegal, 1 term (6 months)**

**Printed Access Card -- 9780357091234**

**Authors: Beth Walston-Dunham and John D. DeLeo**

**eBook w/Internet Access & Binder/Loose-leaf (hard text) -- (ALL REQUIRED)**

**ISBN FOR THE ACCESS CARD/CODE and LOOSELEAF MATERIALS:  
TO BE PROVIDED...CHECK BLACKBOARD ON 1/11/19**

**And**

**Black's Law Dictionary, Fifth Pocket Edition (2016 Copyright)**

**Author: Bryan A. Garner**

**ISBN – 9780314844897**

**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 news every day about legal issues/matters, politics, the President, Congress, the Supreme Court, foreign affairs, economic issues and conditions, as well as current 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 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.** Also, do not ask to reschedule exams because of travel plans. The exam schedule has 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 6, 2019 starting at 6:00 PM sharp.

The Final "In Class" Exam is scheduled for: May 10, 2019 -- 6:20 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. If the Professor allows for a take home exam, he will advise of same by April 24<sup>th</sup> and give specifics.

### **Grading/Negative Discretion**

**Grades are based on the following: written/graded assignments/homework (designated as such by me during the semester - 15% total grade); In-class quizzes (15% total grade); Midterm Exam (30% total grade); and Final Exam (40% total grade).**

**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 on line, watching sports, et cetera).**

**THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT OFFERED FOR THIS CLASS**



- APRIL 3 Chapter 13 – The Law of Contracts  
(Lecture and Discussion)
- APRIL 10 Chapter 14 – The Law of Business  
(Lecture and Discussion)
- APRIL 17 Chapters 10 – Family Law  
(Lecture and Discussion and Review for Exam)
- APRIL 24 Chapter 12 – Property Law  
(Lecture and Discussion)
- MAY 1 Chapter 11 – Estates and Probate  
(Lecture and Discussion)
- MAY 10 **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 24<sup>TH</sup>.)**

**SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO MODIFCATION AT PROFESSOR’S DISCRETION**

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