INTRODUCTION TO SUBSTANTIVE LAW 21:790:463:62
(SPRING 2020) (Topics in Am. Pol & Policy)

Professor Todd M. Galante

Index No. 16141
Wednesday. Evenings 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Classroom: 107 – Hill Hall
Office: Hill Hall Room 718
Office Hours: Wednesday 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. & by Appointment

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Required Books/Materials

*Introduction to Law (Paperback) (7th Ed. – 2020 Copyright)*
Authors: Beth Walston-Dunham and John D. DeLeo
The textbook can be ordered from Cengage or the Barnes & Noble Rutgers University Book Store
The ISBN for this book is 9781305948648

And

*Black’s Law Dictionary, Fifth Pocket Edition (2016 Copyright)*
Author: Bryan A. Garner
ISBN – 9780314844897
YOU CAN BUY THIS ANYWHERE

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 CASE RECITATION, CLASS DISCUSSION and DEBATE.

**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 absence his/her grade will be automatically reduced by ½ grade for each 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 the 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, lectures, other assigned readings, exhibited or assigned film(s) and/or videos, handouts, class debates, guest speakers’ subject matter and lectures, and all other materials and information disseminated or assigned 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 4, 2020 starting at 6:00 PM sharp.**

The Final “In Class” Exam is scheduled for: **May 13, 2020 starting at 6:20 PM**

If the Professor allows for a take home exam, he will advise of same by April 22, 2020 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 and participation/preparedness (15% total grade); Midterm Exam (30% total grade); and Final Exam (40% total grade).

Negative Discretion -- Your overall grade may 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**

**Order of Readings and Lectures**

READ THE ASSIGNED MATERIALS BELOW 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings for Completion Ahead of Each Class Date Indicated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN. 22</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 of textbook, as well as review of Federalist Papers 10, 51 and 78. (Review of Syllabus/Outline of course and discuss chapter readings – American Legal System, The Courts, Legislation and The Executive Branch &amp; Administrative Authority and Federalist Papers. (Lecture and Discussion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN. 29</td>
<td>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)</td>
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<td>FEB. 5</td>
<td>Chapters 6 and 7 – Jurisdiction and The Legal Professional (Lecture and Discussion)</td>
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<td>FEB. 12</td>
<td>Chapter 8 on The Law of Ethics and NJ Rules of Professional Conduct. (Lecture and Discussion)</td>
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<td>FEB. 19</td>
<td>Chapter 9 – Torts</td>
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<td>FEB. 26</td>
<td>Finish – Torts, Proceed to Chapter 15 – Criminal Law (Lecture and Discussion) and review for Midterm Exam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR. 4</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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MAR. 11  Chapter 16 – Criminal Procedure (Lecture and Discussion)

MAR. 18  SPRING RECESS

MAR. 25  Chapter 16 – Criminal Procedure (Lecture and Discussion) and discuss Midterm Exam results/performance

APRIL 1  Chapter 13 – The Law of Contracts (Lecture and Discussion)

APRIL 8  Chapter 14 – The Law of Business (Lecture and Discussion)

APRIL 15  Chapters 10 – Family Law (Lecture and Discussion and Review for Exam)

APRIL 22  Chapter 12 – Property Law (Lecture and Discussion)

APRIL 29  Chapter 11 – Estates and Probate (Lecture and Discussion)

FINAL EXAM  IF IN CLASS - MAY 13TH STARTING AT 6:20 OR IF TAKEHOME – TO BE ANNOUNCED

(PROFESSOR MAY DECIDE TO GIVE TAKE HOME EXAM. IF SO, THE DATE AND PARTICULARS OF SAME WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE END OF CLASS ON APRIL 22ND)

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