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Legal Studies

LAW100 Introduction to Law and the American Legal System 4 Credit Hours

Students will be introduced to the United States legal system. The structure and administration of the state and federal courts are examined as well as the function of the trial and appellate courts. The sources of law will be discussed, and procedural and substantive law distinguished. Students will be introduced to the legal principles of torts, contracts, criminal, civil, and property law.

LAW200 Legal Ethics and Professional Values 4 Credit Hours

The course will introduce students to the defining ethical issues that lawyers and the legal community face in various practice settings. Topics will include access to justice; issues in the attorney-client relationship, such as competence, confidentiality, and conflict of interest; and ethics in particular context, such as criminal practice, government, and corporate law.

Prerequisite: LAW100 or BUS231 or JUS100

LAW210 Legal Research 4 Credit Hours

Students will locate and identify primary and secondary sources of law using traditional and computer-assisted research techniques, including Lexis, Westlaw, and the Internet. Students will use the databases to formulate searches, retrieve and display documents, and validate findings.

Prerequisite: LAW100 or BUS231 or JUS100

LAW220 Writing for Legal Professionals 4 Credit Hours

Students will structure and draft legal case briefs, opinion letters, and memoranda of law in a logical, clear, concise manner. The course will stress proper grammar, organization, legal citation, and ethical considerations in legal writing. The students will learn appropriate writing style and tone, adapting the style/tone based on purpose of document and audience. The students will learn the use of outlines and charts in preparing to write legal documents.

Prerequisites: LAW210, ENG106

LAW230 Civil Litigation 4 Credit Hours

Students will be introduced to the rules governing the civil litigation process in both the state and federal civil courts. Topics will include all aspects of civil litigation, including preparation of pleadings, discovery methods, motion practice, trial documents, and the appellate process.

Prerequisite: LAW100 or BUS231

LAW240 Family Law 4 Credit Hours

This course will explore the field of Family Law from both a theoretical and practical perspective by examining the requirements of family law practice. Topics covered will include planning for marriage and formation of the marriage through its dissolution, including divorce, separation, and annulment. Child matters including child support, visitation, and adoption will also be covered. Other topics will include domestic partnerships; domestic violence considerations, including orders of protection; and non-dispute resolution and its role in Family Law.

Prerequisite: LAW100 or BUS231 or JUS100

LAW250 Wills, Trusts, and Estates 4 Credit Hours

Involves planning, formation, and administration of property-interest transfer instruments; preparation and execution of estate and trust instruments; testate and intestate probates and estate administrations; handling an elective

share and related disputes; and accounting for income or asset accumulation, administration, and distribution, including federal and state taxation issues.

Prerequisite: LAW100 or BUS231

LAW260 Law Firm Communications and Technology **4 Credit Hours**

Designed to provide students with the knowledge and practical application of the different technologies and software packages used in the legal industry. Students develop the conceptual, technical, and interpersonal skills required to manage information and personnel in an automated law office environment.

Prerequisites: LAW100 or BUS231, CIS115

LAW270 Special Topics in Legal Studies **4 Credit Hours**

Includes readings and discussions organized around selected topics in legal studies. Topics will vary each quarter.

LAW293 Legal Studies Internship **4 Credit Hours**

Allows students to work in a position related to their course of study. Students integrate the skills and knowledge learned through their academic experiences and participate in focused online discussions and special online projects.

Prerequisite: BUS226

LAW310 Alternative Dispute Resolution **4 Credit Hours**

This course will explore the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) by exploring the various mechanisms utilized to resolve disputes, including mediation and arbitration; the advantages and disadvantages of utilizing ADR as opposed to litigation; as well as the types and subjects where ADR is commonly employed. Students will engage in role plays throughout the course to demonstrate their knowledge of the various ADR options.

Prerequisite: LAW100 or BUS231 or JUS100

LAW320 Elder Care Law **4 Credit Hours**

Addresses legal requirements and procedures, state and federal benefits systems, taxation issues and financial principles, ethics, end-of-life issues, and elder abuse issues related to aged and special needs populations. Case management techniques appropriate to aged and special needs populations will be addressed.

Prerequisite: LAW250 or HEA203

LAW330 Employment Law **4 Credit Hours**

Course covers the basic concepts in federal and state Employment Law. Topics include the hiring process, legal regulation, benefits, employee privacy, expression and association, health and safety, the organization and representation, union collective action, collective bargaining, termination of the employment, restrictive covenants, wrongful discharge, plant closings, and retirement.

Prerequisites: LAW100 or BUS231

LAW340 Law Firm Management and Administration **4 Credit Hours**

Provides an overview of the legal industry, including the parameters and policies of the business of law. Topics include: principles of law firm management and supervision, the organizational structure of a law office, law firm hiring practices, human resources, client relations, office procedures, workforce ethics, facilities management, security, and confidentiality.

Prerequisites: LAW100 or BUS231, BUS100

LAW410 Constitutional Law **4 Credit Hours**

A survey of U.S. constitutional issues as primarily interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court. Topics include issues of government structure, including the powers of the three branches of government and checks and balances; separation of powers in the federal and state governments; and individual liberties and civil rights, including First Amendment freedom of speech, assembly, and religion, as well as the Equal Protection Clause.

Prerequisite: LAW100 or BUS231 or JUS100

LAW420 Real Property Law

4 Credit Hours

This course will allow students to learn and explore fundamental topics related to the petition, ownership, and transfer of real property interest. Topics will include closings of residential property real estate financing, including mortgages and insurance, foreclosure, and short sales. Through a simulated real estate closing exercise, students will relate theory to practice and demonstrate their knowledge of the topics studied.

Prerequisite: LAW100 or BUS231

LAW430 Advanced Legal Research, Writing, and Advocacy

4 Credit Hours

This course further develops and refines the research, analysis, citation, and writing skills introduced in Legal Research (LAW210) and Writing for Legal Professionals (LAW220) courses. Students will prepare either a complex trial brief or appellate brief, and present oral argument.

Prerequisite: LAW220

LAW440 Contemporary Issues in Elder and Special Needs Law

4 Credit Hours

Involves reading and discussions organized around selected topics. Topics will vary each quarter and may include health policy, financial aspects of money management, housing issues, legal issues, and professional ethics related to special needs and geriatric populations.

Prerequisites: LAW250 or HEA203

LAW450 Intellectual Property

4 Credit Hours

Includes the study of each field of law that typically falls under the umbrella of intellectual property, including trademarks, copyrights, patents, trade secrets, and unfair competition. The methods by which each is created, procedures to register or protect each, duration of rights, protection from infringement, and new and international developments will be discussed for each of the intellectual property fields.

Prerequisites: LAW100 or BUS231

LAW460 Law Firm Financial Management

4 Credit Hours

Students learn the principles and practical applications of law firm financial management, the maintenance of attorney trust accounts, and ethical rules governing financial transactions. Topics include basics of accounting and bookkeeping; management of attorney trust accounts and business accounts; billing, collections, and accounts payable; attorney record keeping and time management; and budgeting.

Prerequisites: LAW100 or BUS231, ACC110

LAW470 Special Topics in Legal Studies

4 Credit Hours

Involves readings and discussions around selected topics in legal studies. Topics will vary each quarter.

LAW483 Legal Studies Internship

4 Credit Hours

Allows students to work in a position related to their course of study. Students integrate the skills and knowledge learned through their academic experiences and participate in focused online discussions and special online projects.

Prerequisite: BUS226