

SYLLABUS

Code: PLGL135

Title: Family Law

Institute: STEM

Department: Paralegal Studies

Course Description: The purpose of the Family Law Course is to give legal assistants an understanding of domestic relations law. Students will learn how the laws governing family situations are applied. The content of the course covers dissolution, child custody, child support, alimony, property settlement agreements, orders to show cause, domestic violence and adoption. The students will be able to define and differentiate between the various grounds for divorce, and annulment, and they will be able to prepare all forms and pleadings necessary for divorce, and annulment proceedings. This course is designed to give an overview of the law, rules of procedure, ethical and professional responsibilities and tasks essential to the role of the paralegal in assisting the attorney in the family law litigation process.

Prerequisites:

Corequisites:

Prerequisites or Corequisites: PLGL105

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab/Studio Hours: 0

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS:

TEXT: Family Law ; ICLE

Resource Books & Materials:

The "New" Child Support Guidelines ; ICLE
Litigating Interstate Child Custody
Visitation Support Cases ; ICLE
NJ Family Practice ; Gary N. Skoloff, Esquire
Yudes Family Law Citation
NJ Rules of Court
Tax Strategies in Divorce
A Planning & Analysis Handbook 2nd Edition
Custom Soft/Child Support Worksheets/computer

ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIREMENTS:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Examine the concepts and principles of family law;
- Research and prepare documents for matrimonial dissolution and property settlement agreements utilizing computer applications;
- Demonstrate ethical and professional responsibility;
- Interpret statutes, case law, and court rules pertaining to the family law practice.

GRADING STANDARD:

Projects:

Students must complete each of the following projects (weight of each to be determined by individual Instructor):

Draft Complaint for Divorce

1. Draft Answer and Counterclaim
2. Draft Case Information Statement

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3. Complete Child Support Worksheet
4. Draft Notice of Motion, Certification, Affidavit of Services Rendered, and Order
5. Draft Order to Show Cause
6. Draft Property Settlement Agreement
7. Draft Final Judgment of Divorce
8. Draft Antenuptial Agreement (optional)
9. Draft Adoption Compliant (optional)

Grades:

A. EACH ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM will be graded by the Instructor, as follows:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	70-75
D	65-69
F	64 or below

* Course Grade – Individual instructor changes in grading requirements will be found in that instructor's course grading addendum.

Students are expected to attend all classes. If students miss three or more consecutive sessions, they will be given an incomplete until such time as the work is made up.

Class Participation:

Students are expected to participate in class discussions.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to develop fictitious fact patterns to be used in the preparation of their assignments. Students are not to use real life cases due to ethical and professional concerns. The project is based on fictitious situations. Any student who uses real or actual cases shall be given a failing grade for the semester.

COURSE CONTENT:

- Introduction to Family Law;
- Breakdown of the Marital Relationship;
- Pendente Lite Motions;
- Discovery;
- Property Settlement Agreement;
- Divorce Judgments;
- Antenuptial Agreements;
- Domestic Violence; and
- Adoption.

DEPARTMENT POLICIES:

1. Grading Policy:
Grades for assignments, projects, exams, and courses are to be determined by the individual Instructor, however, the Department reserves the right to approve same for adjunct Instructors.
2. Cheating Policy:
In light of the nature and ethical demands of the profession for which we are preparing students, it is the Department's policy that THERE WILL BE A ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHEATING OR UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR WITH RESPECT TO ANY ASPECT OF A

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STUDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM. A student who is found to have engaged in same will receive no credit for any course that is involved and may be asked to leave the program. Further college disciplinary action may also be taken.

3. Attendance Policy:
The Legal Studies Department wishes to advise students that, with rare exception, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to be successful in a course without regular class attendance. The Department, therefore, encourages attendance, except in cases of illness, emergency, or other serious problem or conflict. It is up to the individual Instructor as to whether to require attendance or to include it as a criterion for grading. In any event, no student should miss two consecutive classes, or three classes overall in a term, without contacting the course Instructor as soon as possible.
4. Taping Classes:
Tape recording of classes or Legal Studies Department programs without a proper Alert form is prohibited. Tapes made pursuant to an Alert form are for the sole use of the student for whom the Alert form was issued, and are to be used only for the purposes provided therein.
5. "Retesting" Policy:
It is the Department's position, in light on the nature and demands of the profession for which we are preparing students, that students will not be permitted to "retest", unless the individual Instructor finds compelling reason to do so in an unusual circumstance.
6. Course Testing Center Policy:
The Department has no official policy other than to indicate it has no objection to an individual Instructor making use of the testing center under appropriate circumstances.
7. Late Assignment Test Policy:
It is the Department's policy that all assignments and tests are to be completed and submitted in the date scheduled for same. It is up to the individual Instructor to determine what consequences, if any, will result from lateness. However, the Department reserves the right to approve same for adjunct Instructors.

Questions about the Legal Studies Department Program or the Paralegal Profession may be directed to the Program Director at (732) 224- 2200, to the Learning Assistant at (732) 224-2337, or to full time faculty members.

COLLEGE POLICIES:

For information regarding:

- ◆ Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code
- ◆ Student Conduct Code
- ◆ Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [BCC STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG](#).

NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:

The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arises.