

Introduction to the Legal System

SO 216

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OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this class is to introduce the student to the language, theory and practice of the law with a particular emphasis on the American legal system. To that end we will explore both the civil and criminal justice systems. Specific topics will include constitutional law; court procedure; administrative law; criminal law and procedure; torts; family law; real and personal property; employment law and Wills and Trusts.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: All students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussion. Failure to attend class on three or more occasions for any purpose automatically disqualifies the student from the possibility of receiving the highest participation grade.

WITHDRAWAL AND PLAGIARISM: The rules of the college as they apply to withdrawal from the course and plagiarism will be strictly followed. Students are encouraged to consult the college handbook for details of these policies.

METHOD OF EVALUATION: Three exams will be given. Exams are non-cumulative. In addition to the exams, class members will be given the opportunity to prepare a class project or paper on an extra credit basis. Grades will be based on exams, the group project and participation according to the following scale:

80% Exams
20% Class Participation

Make-up exams will not be given unless the student can prove serious illness resulting in hospitalization or death in their immediate family. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the above. Minor illnesses, fatigue, vacation plans, death of pets, and distant relatives are not excuses unless the Dean of the College permits dismissal for these reasons.

BLACKBOARD: It is my intention to use the Blackboard online system as an instructional tool this semester. When operable, students will be able to download and print the syllabus, class assignment, outlines for class and challenge cases. Students will also be able to chat with me in real time about class matters and more easily contact me at other times. Greater facilitation of group work may also be a byproduct of this process.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS: The following book is required and is available for purchase at the Moravian College Bookstore: *Understanding the Law* by Carper, Mietus, Shoemaker and West fourth edition.

Schedule of Assignments

01/15	Chapter 1, Introduction to the Law
01/17	Chapter 2, The Constitution
01/22	Continue with above
01/24	Chapter 3, The Court System
01/29	Chapter 4, The Attorney-Client Relationship
01/31	Continue with the above
02/05	Chapter 5, Administrative Law
02/07	Chapter 6, Crimes
02/12	Continue with the above
02/14	Continue with the above
02/19	Exam #1
02/21	Chapter 7, Torts
02/26	Continue with the above
02/28	Continue with the above
03/05	No Class - Spring Break
03/07	No Class - Spring Break
03/12	Chapter 9, Family Law
03/14	Continue with the above
03/19	Continue with the above
03/21	Chapter 10, Motor Vehicles
03/26	Continue with the above
03/28	Exam #2
04/02	Chapter 11, Landlord-Tenant
04/04	Continue with the above
04/09	No Class - Easter Break
04/11	Chapter 12, Real Estate
04/16	Chapter 13, Employment Law
04/18	Continue with the above
04/23	Continue with the above
04/25	Chapter 14, Estates and Trusts

