

INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL ANALYSIS AND SUBSTANTIVE LAW OVERVIEW

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS FALL 2002

INSTRUCTOR:

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This class combines the materials from IT 800 and IT 805. It will introduce non-legally trained students to the workings of the legal system, legal methods (including research and legal writing techniques) and the process of legal education. In addition, it will familiarize students with the basic substantive areas of law.

The format is rather informal and will include open discussion of current cases and issues, in-class problem solving, and library/computer lab practice sessions. Students will receive training in legal writing techniques, exam taking, library use and computer research methods. The class schedule is subject to change. Topics and materials may be adjusted according to current events and students' experience with and interests in particular legal issues.

Grades will be based on class participation, several writing assignments and an exam. Course materials will be tailored to match students' knowledge and experience.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. *Law 101: Everything You Need to Know About the American Legal System*, Jay M. Feinman (Oxford Publishing 2000)
2. *Introduction to the Law & Legal System of the United States*, William Burnham (West Publishing 1999)
3. *Black's Law Dictionary*
4. *American Legal Systems: A Resource and Reference Guide*, Toni M. Fine (Anderson Publishing, 1997)

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

Scholarly Writing for Law Students, Elizabeth Fajans, et al (West Publishing 2000)

Additional materials will be distributed in class.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

1. INTRODUCTION

2. HISTORY OF THE U.S. LEGAL SYSTEM

Burnham, pp 1-34.

3. SOURCE OF LAWS AND REGULATORY MECHANISMS

Burnham, pp 35-63.

HOW TO READ A CASE (and other documents you will likely encounter)

INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW LIBRARY

4. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL WRITING

Feinman, pp 1-43.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW CONTINUED AND C.A.R.

Feinman, pp 45-85.

6. LITIGATION BASICS AND PROCEDURES

Feinman, pp 87-132.

COMPUTER RESEARCH TRAINING

1st WRITING ASSIGNMENT DISCUSSED

****COURT FIELD TRIP***

7. TORTS

Feinman, pp 133-169.

LAW SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS – What’s the big deal... How to use the law school environment to your advantage. Competing in classes with law students and lawyers.

- 8. CONTRACTS**
Feinman, pp 171-204.

PERSUASIVE v. OBJECTIVE v. SCHOLARLY WRITING

1st WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

2nd WRITING ASSIGNMENT DISCUSSED

- 9. PROPERTY**
Feinman, pp 205-248.

- 10. CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE AND C.A.R. CONTINUED**
Feinman, pp 249-292.

MORE COMPUTER RESEARCH TRAINING

FINAL PAPER DISCUSSED

- 11. CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE CONTINUED**
Feinman, pp 297-333.

2nd WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

FINAL PAPER THESIS STATEMENTS DUE

PRACTICE EXAM

- 12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW AND CURRENT ISSUES IN INFORMATION LAW AND POLICY**
Readings TBA

THE ART OF ORAL PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION OF PAPER TOPICS

TBA - FINAL PAPER DUE

EXAM TBA

EXAM DISCUSSION (required) TBA