

**Introduction To Legal Analysis And Substantive Law Overview**  
**TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**  
**SUMMER/FALL 2001**

INSTRUCTOR:  
Leslie Ann Reis  
(312) 987-1425  
7reis@jmls.edu

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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CLASSES WILL MEET IN ROOM 403.

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

Additional materials will be distributed in class.

**1. HISTORY OF THE U.S. LEGAL SYSTEM**

Burnham, pp 1-34.

**2. SOURCE OF LAWS AND REGULATORY MECHANISMS**

Burnham, pp 35-63.

HOW TO READ A CASE (and other documents you will likely encounter):  
*Reno v. ACLU*, 929 F. Supp. 824 (E.D.Pa. 1996) and *Reno v. ACLU*,  
117 S. Ct. 2329 (1997).

**INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW LIBRARY**

**3. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

Feinman, pp 1-43.

**5. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW CONTINUED**

Feinman, pp 45-85.

**6. LITIGATION BASICS AND PROCEDURES**

Feinman, pp 87-132.

***\*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 AND INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL WRITING**

Feinman, pp 171-204.

**PERSUASIVE v. SCHOLARLY WRITING**

**9. PROPERTY AND C.A.R.**

Feinman, pp 205-248.

COMPUTER RESEARCH TRAINING

1st WRITING ASSIGNMENT DISCUSSED

**10. CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE AND C.A.R. CONTINUED**

Feinman, pp 249-292.

COMPUTER RESEARCH TRAINING

1st WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

2nd WRITING ASSIGNMENT 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**