

TRUSTS & ESTATES
(LAW 6430)
(4 credit hours)

Professor McCouch

Spring 2026

Office Hours, Telephone and E-mail

My office is located in Holland Hall 312B. Regular office hours are on Friday from 1:30–3:30 p.m. or by appointment. If I am in my office and the door is open, you are welcome to drop by. You can also reach me by telephone at 352.273.0991 or by e-mail at gmcouch@law.ufl.edu.

Course Materials

The assigned casebook for the course is Ascher & McCouch, *Gratuitous Transfers* (7th ed.) (West 2019). Students should also have a copy of the Florida Statutory Supplement and handout problems, which will be posted on the course website. Students looking for optional supplementary background reading may wish to consult McGovern, Kurtz, English & Gallanis, *Wills, Trusts and Estates* (6th ed., West 2021), or Haskell, *Preface to Wills, Trusts and Administration* (2d ed., Foundation 1994).

Course Objectives

The primary objective of the course is to introduce students to fundamental concepts and doctrines of inheritance law, including intestate succession, wills, and trusts. The course provides an essential grounding for students who wish to pursue advanced courses in fiduciary administration, future interests, and estate planning, as well as a general survey for students who intend to practice in other areas.

Class Meetings and Attendance

Class will meet in Room 360 at 10:45 a.m. – noon on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, beginning Tuesday, January 20. Regular and punctual class attendance is required. A student with more than three unexcused class absences may be penalized in the final grade or excluded from the course. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class, and may expect to spend up to two hours of preparation for every class hour.

Topical Outline

Topics will be covered in the following order, with assigned reading in the casebook and the Florida Statutes as indicated. Supplementary reading (“Supp.”) will be posted on the course website. The assigned reading for the first week of class is Chapter 1 of the casebook (pp. 1–54).

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Casebook</u>	<u>Fla. Stat. §§</u>
	Ch. 1: Introduction		
Jan. 20	Inheritance, Testation, and Probate	1–54	
	Ch. 2: Intestate Succession		
Jan. 27	Spouse, Issue, Ancestors and Collaterals	55–76	732.101–.105, 732.107, 732.601
Feb. 3	Adopted and Nonmarital Children	83–117	732.106, 732.108, 742.17
	Advancements; Homicide; Disclaimer	117–146	733.806, 732.802, 739.102–.402
	Ch. 3: Family Protection		
Feb. 10	Homestead and Statutory Allowances	147–157,	732.401–.403, 732.702
	Elective Share; Waiver	180–188	732.201–.2145
	Omitted Heirs	198–215	732.301–.302
Feb. 17	Ch. 4: Grounds for Contest		
	Capacity, Undue Influence, Fraud and Mistake	223–302	732.501, 732.5165–.517, 732.805, 732.806, 733.107
	Ch. 5: Wills		
	Attested Wills	303–352	732.502–.504, 732.521–.526
Feb. 24	Will Components	381–396	732.5105–.512, 732.515
	Will Contracts	396–408	732.513, 732.701
	Revocation and Amendment;	408–421	732.505–.506, 733.207
Mar. 3	Revival	421–424	732.507–.509
	Dependent Relative Revocation	424–429	
	Revocation by Divorce	429–444	732.703, 736.1105
	Ambiguity; Mistake; Ademption	444–472	732.606, 732.615, 732.609, 733.803–.805
Mar. 10	Lapse	472–484	732.603–.604
	Ch. 6: Gifts		
	Lifetime Gifts; Nonprobate Transfers	485–528	
	Revocable Trusts	528–543	689.075
Mar. 17	[spring break]		
Mar. 24	Ch. 7: Trusts		
	Trust Creation	545–563, 581–586	736.0401–.0404, 736.0407, 736.0603
	Spendthrift Trusts	586–598	736.0501–.0503
	Discretionary and Self-Settled Trusts	626–630	736.0504–.0505
Mar. 31	Revocation, Modification and Termination	631–639, 649–650	736.0602, 736.04113–.0412
	Trusts for Noncharitable Purposes	Supp.	736.0408–.0409
	Charitable Trusts; Cy Pres	Supp.	736.0405, 736.0413
Apr. 7	Ch. 8: Fiduciary Administration		
	Duty of Loyalty	Supp.	736.0801–.0802
	Trust Investments	Supp.	736.0803–.0804, 518.11–.112
	Duty of Impartiality; Fiduciary Discretion	Supp.	
Apr. 14	Ch. 9: Future Interests		
	Classification of Future Interests	Supp.	
	Survival Requirements; Class Gifts	Supp.	736.1106
	Powers of Appointment	Supp.	
Apr. 21	Rule Against Perpetuities	Supp.	689.225

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated primarily based on the final examination, which will be graded anonymously. In calculating the final grade for the course, the grade awarded on the final examination may be raised by one grade level to reflect active, voluntary participation of consistently high quality in class discussion.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should have a basic understanding of the laws of intestacy, wills, and trusts, enabling them to analyze practical applications and planning alternatives and preparing them to pursue advanced courses in personal and estate planning.

Additional Information

Additional information about law school policies concerning grades, accommodations, class recordings, makeup exams, course evaluations, and honor code compliance can be found at <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices> and <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/427635/files?preview=98226140>.