

Family Law
Fall 2022
LAW 6710, Class #28204
Professor Paige L. Snelgro
Mondays & Wednesdays, 4:30pm – 5:55pm
Holland Hall, Room 285C

SYLLABUS

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Office hours: Tuesdays (in person) 10am – 11am; Thursdays (via Zoom) 3pm-4pm

Required Course Material

The required text is Steve Berenson's, **Family Law Doctrine and Practice – ISBN: 978-1-61163-954-4**. Due to the recently and rapidly changing laws, there will be supplemental readings for certain topics; I will post these on the CANVAS course page.

Course Overview & General Guidelines

Welcome to Family Law! This course is designed for students who have an interest in becoming family law practitioners and those who want to begin mastering this bar tested subject. Regardless of your reason for taking this course, please keep in mind that we will be discussing sensitive and emotionally charged topics. Family law practitioners often deal with clients during the worst times of their lives, and often truly embody the role of a “counselor.” As such, you should prepare to discuss sensitive topics and keep the following guidelines in mind:

1. It is never my intent to embarrass anyone. Should any of you need to talk to me privately about the topics we discuss in class, please do so. I understand if there are just some topics you do not wish to discuss for personal reasons and have no problem giving you a “pass” from actively participating in certain class discussions, as long as you let me know in advance.
2. All of you are coming from different backgrounds. You must be aware of this and be sensitive to the needs of others. No judgment of each other will be tolerated, but differing views of each other's opinions (including mine) is expected. Find a balance between both of those when commenting.
3. Always behave in a professional and appropriate manner.
4. Treat everyone with respect and courtesy.

Workload

This course complies with ABA Standard 310. You should plan to spend approximately 2 hours out of class reading and preparing class assignments for every 1 hour in class.

As for any three-credit course, the ABA requires that you spend an average of at least six hours per week on work for this course, in addition to time spent in class.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

The learning objectives and expected outcomes of this Family Law Course are that students taking it will: (1) develop knowledge and understanding of substantive family law as well as of the various legal processes for dispute resolution; (2) possess the ability to perform legal analysis and reasoning and problem solving concerning Family Law, and to communicate such analysis, reasoning, and problem solving in written and in oral communication; and (3) gain understanding of proper professional and ethical responsibilities that attorneys engaged in family law practice have to clients and the legal system. This course will also include attention to professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as members of the legal profession.

The Course Website

I will use the CANVAS course website for course related announcements, supplemental readings, as well as other course information. In addition, you will find optional readings and information about recent developments in family law relating to the subject matter examined in this course as well as opportunities related to family law. You should check CANVAS regularly and view it as an important course resource.

Attendance

I understand that things come up or sometimes you just need a mental health day. For that reason, you may take a maximum of two excused absences through the semester. For those days, you must request and receive the excused absence in advance (except in a true emergency).

Attendance is measured solely by signing in at the beginning of class. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign in. By signing in, you affirm that you were present during the entirety of that class period. It is a serious violation of the Honor Code to falsely indicate that you were present in class or to help a classmate misrepresent their attendance.

Punctuality is part of the professionalism expected of you as future lawyers. Please be in your seat and ready to begin class at the scheduled time. Arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving class early without my prior permission will count as an absence and will result in your participation score being lowered.

Email Address

To facilitate communication in this course you should have a functioning “@ufl.edu” e-mail address. Due to continuing problems with email forwarding, you may want to think carefully about “forwarding” your @ufl.edu e-mail to certain other ISPs (gmail, yahoo and the like) as you do not want to miss any important communications relating to class.

Professionalism

You are all bound by the University Student Code of Conduct, the College of Law Honor Code and the rules for this course. Proper conduct is intended to encourage everyone to participate in, to derive benefit from, and ultimately, to enjoy the class. Any unprofessional conduct and/or conduct that is in any way disrespectful to other students, disruptive, distracting or has a negative effect on the classroom atmosphere is prohibited.

Any unprofessional conduct will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Such conduct may result in administrative removal from the course or a grade reduction. I will be especially strict with students who distract or harass other students in any way.

Supplemental Material

You may find supplemental material that might assist the learning of others. For example, you might find a clipping from a newspaper that offers an interesting example of a case or a situation that raises one of the issues discussed in the material assigned for that week. If you wish to share the material with the class, please send it to me via email; I may distribute it depending upon the submission. If you submit material that I use, I will consider the submission when I am calculating your class participation grade.

Detailed Course Policies

A. Course Points

1. Class Participation: 10%

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| 2. | Writing Assignments: | 40% |
| 3. | Quizzes: | 10% |
| 4. | Final Exam: | 40% |

The law school policy on exam delays and accommodations can be found [here](#).

B. Final Grades

At the end of the semester, the points for all students will be calculated and the letter grades for the course will be assigned subject to the requirements of the mandatory curve. The Levin College of Law's mean and mandatory distributions are posted on the College's website and this class adheres to that posted grading policy. The following chart describes the specific letter grade/grade point equivalent in place:

Letter Grade	Point Equivalent
A (Excellent)	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.0
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C (Satisfactory)	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D (Poor)	1.0
D-	0.67
F (Failure)	0.0

C. Accommodations

"Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the Assistant Dean for

Student Affairs (Assistant Dean Brian Mitchell). Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

“Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. Click [here](#) to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.”

C. Class Recording Policy

The Office of Student Affairs will continue to record all classes via Mediasite in case students must miss class for health reasons. The Office of Student Affairs will determine when students may have access to these recordings, and the recordings will be password protected. These recordings will be retained only for a short period of time and it is the student’s responsibility to contact the Office of Student Affairs as soon as possible after an absence.

Course Evaluations

“Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Click [here](#) for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and may complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](#).”

Weekly Reading and Assignments

These assignments may be revised from time to time depending on recent developments in family law and how long certain topics take.

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment (due by 11:59pm on Saturday)
8/22-8/24	Introduction & Divorce	Chapters 1, 19, & 20	Writing assignment TBD
8/29-8/31	Parental Responsibility (Child Custody)	Chapters 21 & 22	Writing assignment TBD
9/5-9/7	Parental Responsibility (Child Custody) &	Chapters 23 & 24	Writing assignment TBD

	Child Support		
9/12-9/14	Spousal Support and Property Division	Chapters 25 & 26	Quiz on Weeks 1-4 material
9/19-9/21	Family Privacy	Chapters 5 & 6	Writing assignment TBD
9/26-9/28	The Right to Marry & Limitations on the Right to Marry	Chapters 7 & 8	Writing assignment TBD
10/3-10/5	Limitations on the Right to Marry	Chapters 9 & 10	Writing assignment TBD
10/10-10/12	Procedural Requirements to Marry & Alternative Forms of Marriage	Chapters 11 & 12	Writing assignment TBD
10/17-10/19	Rights & Responsibilities of Marriage	Chapters 13 & 14	Quiz on Weeks 5-9 material
10/24-10/26	Domestic Violence	Chapters 15 & 16	Writing assignment TBD
10/31-11/2	Unmarried Couples	Chapters 17 & 18	Writing assignment TBD
11/7-11/9	Adoption & Assisted Reproduction	Chapters 27 & 28	Writing assignment TBD
11/14-11/16	Pre- and Post-marital Agreements	Chapters 2, 3, & 4	Quiz on Weeks 10-12 material
11/21	TBD		

DISCLAIMER: The terms of this Syllabus are subject to modification at my discretion. If modifications are made, students will be notified through the course Canvas page or in class.