

LAW IN THE REAL WORLD

(IDS 3187 Honors College)

Wilkes Honors College, Spring 2016

1 credit course. No prerequisites

Instructor: Lawrence Buck (Palm Beach County Bar Association – North County Section)

Description: This is a one credit graded course designed to help students understand how various laws will affect them in real life applications. No prior knowledge of the law is assumed and the course is designed for students with varying academic interests including the sciences, social sciences, business, and humanities. A multitude of law topics will be discussed and summarized to emphasize how the law applies to a wide range of disciplines. For example, all sessions will be of relevance to students exploring political science; sessions on intellectual property law will be of relevance to students in the sciences and artistic fields; sessions on family, criminal and juvenile law will be of relevance to students in the psychology and sociology fields; sessions on business, consumer and bankruptcy law will be of relevance to students concentrating in business related fields; immigration will be of relevance to students concentrating in international studies.

Catalog description: Introduction to how the law impacts individuals' personal and professional lives and applies to a wide range of disciplines.

Statement of honors distinction: This course differs substantially from a non-Honors course. The expectations for participation in class discussions will be greater than in a typical undergraduate course with a larger cap. Most importantly, this course will reflect the interdisciplinary nature of Honors education and will inculcate critical attitudes and skills that will teach you how to learn for yourself.

Goal: An objective of the class is to provide students with a basic understanding of certain laws that will affect their personal and professional lives. Another objective of the class is to illustrate the importance of interdisciplinary in confronting real world issues. The class will be taught by practicing attorneys who each specialize in the particular area of the law they will speak upon.

Time: The class meets Mondays 6-6:50pm in AD 206.

Instructor contact: lpb@lpblaw.com; office phone and location tba. Office hours tbd [instructor will be adjunct faculty]

Requirements: Reading materials supplied, no independent textbook required. Final exam is open book. It is recommended that the student collect and organize all reading materials presented during class for use in the final exam.

Attendance policy: Grade will be reduced for unexcused absences

Grading: Final exam 80% and participation 20%.

Default scale is as follows though the instructor reserves the right to curve the scale only if it would be more beneficial to the student than the scale below.

93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; 0 – 59 = F

Readings: Each class will be led by a different attorney on a topic in their area of specialization. The leader will generally make a reading (e.g. article or court opinion) available at least one week prior to the class meeting. As the topics for this course will vary, exact readings assigned will vary each year. Examples are given below.

Sessions:

Jan. 11: Contract / Business Law

Rdg: Contracts in a Nutshell, 7th ed. (2016), Preface and ch. 1

Jan. 18: *No Class / MLK day*

Jan. 25: Family Law

Feb. 1: Immigration Law

Rdg: Recent cases on immigration (to be made available)

Feb. 8: Personal Injury Law

Cathy Okrent, Torts and Personal Injury Law, 4th ed., excerpts

Feb. 15: Insurance Law

Rdg: Insurance law in a Nutshell (2015), Preface and ch. 1.

Feb. 22: Criminal Law

Rdg: Miranda v. Arizona, 384 US 436 (1966) and excerpts of more recent cases.

Feb. 29: Bankruptcy Law

Rdg: Baird, Elements of Bankruptcy (2014), ch. 1, 3

Mar. 7: *No Class / Spring Break*

Mar. 14: Intellectual Property Law

Rdg: Vaidhyathan, Intellectual Property: A Very Short Introduction (2017)

Mar. 21: Internet / Cyber Law

Rdg: Recent case excerpts (to be made available)

Mar. 28: Alternative Dispute Resolution Law

Rdg: Alternative Dispute Resolution in a Nutshell (2013), ch. 1-2

Apr. 4: Public Interest Law

Rdg: Shhehan, The People's Advocate; The Life and Legal History of America's Most Fearless Public Interest Lawyer (Part I)

Apr. 11: In-House Counsel / Corporate Law

Rdg: sample case materials will be provided by the attorney

Apr. 18: Medical Malpractice

Rdg: Cirgnani, "Everything you need to know about Medical Malpractice in Plain English" (2016)

Apr. 25: Last Class

May 2: Final Exam

Lecture topics may be switched between the stated dates to accommodate attorney conflicts.

Additional notes:

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATIONS: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) -- in Boca Raton, SU 131 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter and all Northern Campuses, SR 111F (561-799-8585) – and follow all SAS procedures.

Academic Integrity Policy: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001 and <http://www.fau.edu/divdept/honcol/students/honorcode.html>

Classroom Etiquette Policy: In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.

Makeup exams only with doctor's note. See FAU catalog for university policy on incompletes.