

DESALES UNIVERSITY
CJ 355 & LG 355: Law In America
SPRING 2010 COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Jennifer Lynn Moore
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Office: 205 Tucker House
Telephone: Ext. 1649
E-mail: jennifer.moore@desales.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11:50 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Textbook: Joanne Banker Hames and Yvonne Ekern, *Introduction to Law*,
Fourth Edition

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the structure and function of the American legal system. Major areas of substantive law are introduced to students, including intellectual property law, family law and contract law. An overview of both civil and criminal procedure is also provided. Legal vocabulary and the process of legal analysis are emphasized.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students will have:

- Testable awareness of the structure and function of the American legal system.
- Proven mastery basic court procedures used in civil and criminal cases.
- Testable awareness of major areas of substantive law.
- Measurably improved written and verbal communication skills assessed through the legal research assignment and class participation.

TESTING & GRADING

There will be two in-class exams given during the semester, and each examination will be worth 20% of the final grade. Each student will also complete a legal research assignment worth 20% of the final grade. A comprehensive final examination will be given at the end of the course, constituting 30%. Additional assignments and class participation will be worth 10% of the final grade. Excessive absences from class will negatively impact a student's grade in the course.

Students will not be permitted to make-up any examination or assignment, unless they have a valid excuse approved by the professor.

- **Exam #1:** 20%
- **Exam #2:** 20%
- **Legal Research Assignment:** 20%
- **Final Exam:** 30%
- **Assignments & Participation:** 10%

TOTAL: 100%

- **Grading Distribution:**

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+
60-66%	D
Below 60%	F

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes during the semester and are responsible for all material presented in class. Attendance requirements are outlined in the 2009-2011 *Undergraduate Catalog*, p. 21. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students will not be permitted to make-up an examination or assignment if they are absent unless they have a valid excuse approved by the instructor. A student's absences will also be considered in calculating their class participation grade.
- **Assigned Readings:** Students are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to class. All students should be prepared to discuss the readings in class.
- **Cheating and Plagiarism:** Cheating on examinations, the use of unauthorized aids, assistance or inappropriate resources, and plagiarism, the unattributed use of another's words or ideas, through either direct appropriation or incorrect paraphrase, are serious breaches of academic standards and will not be permitted. For further information, read the section in the DeSales University Undergraduate Bulletin regarding plagiarism and academic cheating.

DISABILITIES

Students with a documented disability who wish to request course accommodations should contact the Director of the Academic Resource Center (Dolling Hall, Room 23, extension 1239/1293).

***This syllabus is subject to change upon notification from the instructor.*

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 January 19 & 21	Introduction Chapter 1: Introduction to Law
Week 2 January 26 & 28	Chapter 2: The U.S. Legal System Chapter 3: The Courts & Legal Personnel
Week 3 February 2 & 4	Chapter 6: Constitutional Law
Week 4 February 9 & 11	Chapter 7: Tort Law, Workers Compensation & Environmental Law
Week 5 February 16 & 18	Review for Exam #1 EXAM #1 – Thursday, February 18th
Week 6 February 23 & 25	Chapters 4 & 5: Legal Research and Writing
Week 7 March 2 & 4	Chapter 8: Family Law
Week 8	SPRING BREAK
Week 9 March 16 & 18	Chapter 9: Wills, Trusts & Probate
Week 10 March 23 & 25	Chapter 10: Contract, Real Property, Intellectual Property Legal Research Assignment Due –March 25th
Week 11 March 30	Chapter 11: The Law of Business Organizations & Bankruptcy
Week 12 April 6 & 8	Chapter 12: Civil Procedure Before Trial
Week 13 April 13 & 15	Chapter 13: Alternative Dispute Resolution EXAM #2 – Thursday, April 15th
Week 14 April 20 & 22	Chapter 14: Criminal Practice Chapter 15: Criminal Procedure Before Trial
Week 15 April 27 & 29	Chapter 16: Rules of Evidence
Week 16 May 4 & 6	Chapter 17: The Trial Review for Final Exam