

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY PARALEGAL PROGRAM
SYLLABUS
CEPL #25000
ETHICS AND INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW

- I. TEXT Introduction to the Law,
Sixth Edition, Walston-Dunham, West Publishing, ©2009
- II. FACULTY Garrett R. Garcia, Esq.
Juris Doctor, Ave Maria School of Law
- III. CONTACT E-Mail: grgarcialaw@gmail.com
248-972-5995
- IV. AVAILABILITY By Appointment, By Phone or Email
- V. CLASS SCHEDULE 9/6/2016-12/6/2016
Tuesdays 6:30 pm- 9:30 pm
- VI. CREDIT HOURS 4.2 CEU
- VII. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to concepts and vocabulary used in legal philosophy, governmental organization including Michigan and federal court systems and procedures; sources of law including constitutional, statutory, common and administrative laws; basic legal analysis; and the law of civil procedure, evidence, criminal law and procedure, contracts, torts, family law, business organization, and probate law. Extensive presentation of legal ethics and the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct

VIII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation in class discussions including problem solving, ethical dilemmas and applications of law to facts: internet submission of written assignments; reading of case summaries from Michigan State Bar electronic journal (E-Journal); submission on final examination. Class sessions involve legal overviews of topic areas, definitions, concepts, and legal decision trees for legal and ethical problem solving, using discussion, facilitation, oral presentation, arguments and analysis.

Students are encouraged to supplement assigned reading with internet searches, statutory text and library materials to become more familiar with weekly topics.

IX. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will achieve the following competencies: Familiarity with philosophical issues inherent in systems of law; federal & state governmental branches making and enforcing statutory, common and administrative law; jurisdiction, venue and practice rules for the federal and Michigan court systems; formation, interpretation, and performance of contracts, and remedies for breach; elements of intentional and negligent torts and defenses including automobile negligence and the no-fault system, premises liability and professional negligence; definitions of real and personal tangible and intangible property, “goods” and the UCC, and conveyances of property; wills, intestate inheritance and the probate code; family law including divorce, child custody and support, spousal support and alimony, and property division; elements of various felonies and misdemeanors and included offenses; criminal procedure, civil rights and civil liberties, and the Bill of Rights; laws and strategies regarding proprietorships, partnerships, LLCs and corporations; administrative agencies and their licensing, rule-making and adjunctive powers; and the systematized rules of legal ethics, with a focus on problems that frequently arise in the legal workplace. Working with these concepts and materials will enhance the student’s organizational skills, critical thinking, written and oral communication proficiencies, and understanding of law and legal ethics.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is a serious matter that is not tolerated and may result in failure for individual project, course failure, and/or dismissal from the University. Students must submit only their own original work. Collaboration, or cheating in any form are serious violations. For Academic Conduct Policy see:

<http://wwwp.oakland.edu/pace/policies-procedures>

XI. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a factor in awarding CEUs, maximum of 3 absences per course.

XII. COURSE STANDARDS

Each student is responsible for reading the session materials in advance. All assignments will be handed out the session prior to it being due. All assignments are should be submitted on their due date. Students are to actively involve themselves in class discussions. Students are responsible for arranging with a classmate to obtain missed notes, materials and assignments.

XIII. EVALUATION METHOD

Written Assignments	65%
Final Exam	30%
Class Participation	5%
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	100%

XIV. STUDENT RESOURCES

The Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) is the campus office responsible for verifying that students have disability-related needs and determining academic accommodations, auxiliary aids and other services. Students with learning, psychological, or physical disabilities who may require accommodation should contact DDS at: 103A North Foundation Hall, Phone: 248-370-3266; TTY 248-370-3268 to schedule an appointment with a DSS advisor.

XV. GRADING SYSTEM

- a. Oakland University System
 - i. A 3.6-4.0
 - ii. B 3.0-3.5
 - iii. C 2.0-2.9
 - iv. D 1.0-1.9
 - v. E 0.0-0.9

XVI. CLASS SESSIONS

- a. **9/6/2016** **Introduction to Law**
 - i. Reading for next Class– Chapter 1-3
- b. **9/13/2016** **Court Systems & Legislation**
 - i. Assignment #1 Due
 - ii. Reading for next Class - Chapter 4
- c. **9/20/2016** **Executive Branch & Admin. Authority**

- i. Assignment #2 Due
 - ii. Reading – Chapter 5
- d. **9/27/2016 Substantive and Procedural Issues**
 - i. Assignment #3 Due
 - ii. Reading – Chapter 6
- e. **10/4/2016 Jurisdiction**
 - i. Assignment #4 Due
 - ii. Reading – Chapter 7
- f. **10/11/2016 Legal Professionals**
 - i. Assignment #5 Due
 - ii. Reading – Chapter 8
- g. **10/18/2016 The Law of Ethics**
 - i. Assignment #6 Due
 - ii. Reading – Chapter 9
- h. **10/25/2016 Torts**
 - i. Assignment #7 Due
 - ii. Reading – Chapter 10
- i. **11/1/2016 Family Law**
 - i. Assignment #8 Due
 - ii. Readings – Chapter 11 -12
- j. **11/8/2016 Estates and Probate & Property Law**
 - i. Assignment 9# Due
 - ii. Readings – Chapter 13 -14
- k. **11/15/2016 The Law of Contracts and Business**
 - i. Assignment #10 Due
 - ii. Readings - Chapter 15
- l. **11/22/2016 Criminal Law**
 - i. Assignment #11 Due
 - ii. Readings – Chapter 16
- m. **11/29/2016 Criminal Procedure**
 - i. Assignment #12 Due
- n. **12/6/2016 Final Exam**

XVII. NOTE – ASSIGNMENTS AND READING SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE