

Date: February 2006

- I. Course Name:** Family Law
Course Prefix & Number: PLG 230
Credit Hours & Contact Hours: 3 credit hours - 3 contact hours
Catalog Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of family law including: antenuptial agreements, valid and void marriages, annulments, separation agreements, custody and child support, divorce, paternity, adoption and surrogacy. Emphasis will be place on the preparation of necessary documents, filing procedures, and interview techniques. Prerequisites: PLG 100 & PLG 125 with a grade of C or better. Offered on a regular, rotating basis.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Learning Outcomes:

The general goals of this course are to:

1. Introduce the student to the role of the paralegal in family law
2. Give the student an understanding of ethical considerations in the practice of family law
3. Instruct the student in the preliminary legal interview
4. Introduce the student to antenuptial agreements
5. Give the student an understanding of the requirements of a valid marriage
6. Introduce the student to the subject of annulments
7. Introduce the student to the issues of divorce including: separation agreements, child custody, child and spousal support, divorce procedure and the tax consequences of divorce
8. Introduce the student to laws affecting children including: paternity, adoption and surrogacy
9. Instruct the student in necessary document preparation and filing requirements for family law

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

The course is required for students matriculated in the Paralegal A.A.S. degree program. Students matriculated in other degree programs may take the course with the permission of the instructor

College Competencies Addressed by the Course:

The Family Law course addresses the following general competencies: writing, reading, ethics and values, information resources, global concerns, problem solving and professional competency.

III. Methods of Instruction

Types of Course Materials:

Textbook

Methods of Instruction:

Lectures, guest speakers, class discussions and written assignments

Assessment Measures:

Faculty may use a variety of assessment measures including, but not limited to: informal writing, non graded quizzes, and discussions

Methods of Evaluation:

Class participation
Written assignments
Tests
Final Exam

Work product may include but is not limited to:

Preparation of a Divorce Complaint
Preparation of a Statement of Net Worth
Preparation of a Judgment Roll

IV. General Outline of Topics Covered

- I. Working in Family Law
- II. Marriage
- III. Separation
- IV. Divorce
- V. Custody
- VI. Support
- VII. Property Division
- VIII. Property Division
- IX. Judgment Roll-Instruction & Preparation
- X. Non-Marital Children
- XI. Adoption
- XII. Family Offenses
- XIII. Child Protection
- XIV. Ethics in Family Law