

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

LAW IN SOCIETY
LAW 1310 (formerly LAW 1020)

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Revised: Fall 2015

Catalog Course Description:

An examination of law as a process through which social problems are addressed in the United States. Introduction to the Constitution and to its interpretation by the Supreme Court in case law. Exploration of actors affecting decisions of lawmakers, both legislative and administrative, and of law enforcement agencies.

Entry Level Standards:

College-level competencies in reading and English are required. Students must have completed, or be enrolled in, or be eligible to be enrolled in ENGL 1010.

Prerequisite:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Stephens, Otis H., Jr., John M. Scheb II, Glennon, Colin, *American Constitutional Law Volume II: Civil Rights and Liberties*, 6th Ed. (Cengage Learning, 2015) - ISBN: 9781285736921

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Unit	Topic
1	Chapter 1	How to be a Successful Paralegal Student: Study, read, take notes, prepare outlines, take exams. How to be a Successful Paralegal: professionalism
2	Chapter 2; Appendices A-B	Paralegal Profession: Definitions, types of educational programs, paralegal associations, regulation, where paralegals work and what they do, compensation, and future
3-4	Chapter 3; Appendices C-F	Ethics and Professional Responsibility: Ethics rules for attorneys, for paralegals; duties of competence, integrity, confidentiality, avoidance of conflicts of interest; communication; UPL: giving legal advice, prohibited activities, permitted activities; reporting misconduct; consequences of unethical behavior
5	Chapter 4 Court Systems Handout	The American Legal System: sources of law, judicial opinions, constitutions, statutes, branches of government; subject matter jurisdiction, personal jurisdiction and venue; types of law: criminal and civil, substantive and procedural; trial and appellate courts, federal and state courts

6	Chapter 5; Appendix G	Legal Research and Analysis: primary and secondary authorities, federal and state statutes, federal and state case law, publication, encyclopedia, periodicals, texts and treatises, restatements, A.L.R., citation systems, <i>Shepard's</i> , Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis, analyzing the law, briefing cases, IRAC
7	Chapter 6; Appendix H	Legal Writing and Communications: Effective legal writing, accuracy, clarity, readability, conciseness; types of writing, methods of writing, planning and finishing steps, common writing errors
8	Chapter 7	Interviewing and Investigation: overview of client and witness interviews, overview of investigation and evidence
9	Chapter 8	Civil Litigation: before and after the complaint is filed, discovery, ADR
10-11	Chapter 9	What Paralegals Do: Contracts: elements, performance and breach, remedies; Torts: intentional, negligence, strict liability; Business and Corporate law: types of businesses, transactions; Real property: ownership, transfers, leases; Estate Planning and Wills: creating valid wills; administering estates; Family Law: marriage, divorce, child custody, support, civil unions; In-house counsel. The Paralegal's role in a legal environment
12	Chapter 10	Getting and Keeping a Job: resume writing, interviewing, negotiating a salary; performance evaluations, career advancement; quitting a job and getting the next job
13	Chapter 11	The Law Office: structure and organization of firms, types of legal fees, law office procedures
14	Chapter 12	Strategies for Success in the Workplace: Attributes of successful paralegals, skills you must have; how to management time; PROFESSIONALISM
15		Final Examination

II. Course Goals*:

The course will:

- A. Expand student understanding of legal ethics. I, III, IV
- B. Introduce students to the processes by which officials (judges, jurors, lawyers, law enforcement agents, etc.) reach legal decisions and explore the discretionary power officials wield in interpreting, applying, and enforcing the law. I, II, III
- C. Introduce students to how political, cultural and economic factors affect the way legal institutions function. II, III, IV
- D. Introduce to students how partisan politics, economics, social concerns, and public approval influence appointment of U. S. Supreme Court Justices. I, II, III, IV, V

- E. Guide students to an understanding of the adversary system of justice, exploring how social and economic factors affect outcomes in adversarial dispute resolution, and how the adversarial system shapes lawyering processes and legal ethics. I, II, III, IV
- F. Guide students to an understanding of the importance of analyzing credible authorities to reach conclusions based on facts rather than opinions. I,II,III,IV,V
- G. Explore basic constitutional principles which shape and limit legal processes. I, II, III, IV, V
- H. Enhance students' understanding of what "rights" are guaranteed to individuals by the U. S. Constitution and identify constitutional principles which protect autonomy and privacy. I, II, III, IV

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Paralegal program.

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

The student will be able to:

1. Understand the importance of analyzing credible authorities to reach conclusions based on facts rather than opinions. (B,D,F)
2. Explain how political, cultural and economic factors affect the way legal institutions function. (B,C,D)
3. Understand basic Constitutional principles which shape and limit legal processes. (G,H)
4. Participate in teams to analyze various legal, social and ethical concerns that face today's society. (A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H)
5. Critique popularly-held notions about the structure and function of the American legal system. (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 70%

Students are evaluated primarily on the basis of tests. The instructor will provide full details the first week of class via a syllabus supplement.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

N/A

C. Field Work: 20%

Students are expected to attend a class tour of the Knox County Jail.

D. Other Evaluation Methods: 10%

1. Class participation, group work, and homework will also comprise the final grade for the course. The instructor will provide full details the first week of class via a supplementary syllabus.
2. All tests and papers will be graded for spelling and English usage in addition to content and format.

3. Any student encountering academic difficulty during the term is strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss options and solutions.

E. Grading Scale:

A	93-100
B+	88- 92
B	83- 87
C+	78- 82
C	73- 77
D	65- 72
F	64 and below

V. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

Please see the Pellissippi State Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 04:02:00 Academic/Classroom Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for the complete policy.

C. Accommodations for Disabilities:

Students that need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Disability Services (DS) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Disability Services may be contacted by

sending email to disabilityservices@pstcc.edu, or by visiting Alexander 130. More information is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>.

D.. Other Policies:

Computer Usage Guidelines:

College-owned or -operated computing resources are provided for use students of Pellissippi State Community College. All students are responsible for the use of Pellissippi State's computing resources in an effective, efficient, ethical and lawful manner.