

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

FAMILY LAW
LEGL 1340 (formerly LAW 2110)

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Revised: Fall 2015

Catalog Course Description:

An introduction to the substantive and procedural laws in family law with emphasis on paralegal tasks.

Entry Level Standards:

College-level competencies in reading and English are required.

Prerequisites:

LEGL 1300

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Wilson, Mary E, *Family Law for the Paralegal, Concepts and Applications*, 2d. Edition, (Pearson Education 2013). ISBN: 9780135109489

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to Family Law Practice (1.5 hours); Ethics (1.5 hours)
2	Cohabitation (1.0 hour); Premarital Agreements (1.5 hour); Focus on Case law (0.5 hour)
3	Marriage and marriage statutes (1.0 hour); Emerging Alternatives to Marriage (1.0 hour); Federal and Interstate recognition of Marriage (1.0 hour);
4	Annulment (1.5 hours); The Divorce Process and court requirements: parenting classes, mediation, trial management (1.5 hours)
5	The Divorce Process (3.0 hours)
6	Pleadings in Family Law (3.0 hours)
7	Discovery and Financial Statements (1.5 hours); Parenthood (1.5 hours)
8	Parenthood (1.5 hours); Child Custody (1.5 hours)
9	Child Support (3.0 hours)
10	Spousal Support (3.0 hours)

- 11 Property Division (3.0 hours); Separation Agreements (3.0 hours)
- 12 Domestic Violence (3.0 hours)
- 13 Juvenile Court proceedings: The legitimation process (1.0 hours); child custody and support (1.0 hour); Child protection (1.0 hour)
- 14 Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights (3.0 hours)
- 15 Final Exam

II. Course Goals*:

The course will:

- A. Expand student understanding of legal ethics. I, III, IV
- B. Increase the capacity of students to understand basic principles of domestic law when assisting an attorney with divorces, custody, support, adoption, and property division matters. I, II, III, IV, V
- C. Develop an awareness of the paralegal’s job in family law litigation. I, II, III, IV, V
- D. Foster the ability of students to draft basic documents used in domestic cases. I, II, III, IV, V
- E. Enhance student understanding of legal terminology. I, II, III, IV

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

III. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- 1. Understand the substantive and procedural laws applicable to various topics in family law. (B,C,D,E)
- 2. Demonstrate the ability to analyze factual situations and successfully apply the legal concepts learned in this area of the law. (B,C,D,E)
- 3. Draft legal documents in the area of family law. (B,C,D,E)
- 4. Demonstrate a complete and thorough understanding of legal ethics. (A)
- 5. Identify and classify the various kinds of property the domestic client and spouse have acquired. (C,E)

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

V. Evaluation:

- A. Testing Procedures: 80% of grade

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:

N/A

D. Other Evaluation Methods: 20% of grade

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

VI. 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 Dishonesty:

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 by students of Pellissippi State. All students are responsible for the usage of Pellissippi State's computing resources in an effective, efficient, ethical and lawful manner. (*Pellissippi State Online Catalog*)