

Pellissippi State Community College
Master Syllabus

LAW IN SOCIETY
LAW 1020

Class Hours: 3.0
Laboratory Hours: 0.0
Credit Hours: 3.0
Revised: Spring 2012

Instructor:
Office:
Phone:
E-mail:

Catalog Course Description:

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. Introduction to the adversarial system.

Entry-level Standards:

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

Prerequisites: None

Textbooks and Other Supplies:

Textbooks:

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

I. WEEK/TOPIC BASIS:

WEEK TOPIC

- 1 Introduction to Legal Reasoning; Case of the Speluncean explorers; Assignment of Supreme Court Justice Reports
- 2 The Framers; U. S. Constitution; Federalism; Marbury v. Madison; U. S. Supreme Court; Selection Process; Caseload; Decisions
- 3 Justice Reports
- 4 Crime and Punishment: Psychology and the Legal System; Search and Seizure; Exclusionary Rule
- 5 Insanity Defense; Eyewitnesses; Police; Death Penalty; Consensual Crimes
- 6 Consensual Crimes; Field Trip
- 7 Freedom of Religion; Freedom of Speech; Freedom of Press and Assembly
- 8 Second Amendment and Gun Control
- 9 Discrimination; Women
- 10 Privacy; Juvenile Offenders
- 11 Affirmative Action; Lawyers and Litigation; Juries; Jury Nullification
- 12 Glamour Law

13-14 Presentation of Research Papers

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

III. EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

1. Recognize and avoid acts that constitute unethical behavior. (A)
2. Critique popularly-held notions about the structure and function of the American legal system. (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)
3. Distinguish stated rationales from unstated factors affecting judicial decision-making. (B, C, E, H)
4. Compare and contrast methods for broader community participation in the legal process. (B, C, E, F, H, M)
5. Explain the doctrine of jury nullification. (B, C, E,G)
6. Write an objective research paper containing opposing views. (A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H)
7. Make a detailed accurate presentation on the Justices of the U. S. and TN Supreme Courts. (D)
8. Write a well-reasoned essay on an assigned topic citing to the U. S. Constitution. (B,C, D,E,F,G,H)
9. Participate in teams to analyze various legal, social and ethical concerns that face today's society. (B, C, D,E,F,G,H)
10. Explain opposing views of the exclusionary rule, the need for affirmative action, *Roe v. Wade*, Second Amendment, flag burning, marriage, and other controversial topics. (A,B, C, D, E, F, G, H)
11. Participate in healthy debates of current issues using facts and logic on which to base an opinion. (A, B, C,D,E,F,G,H)

IV. EVALUATION:

A. Testing Procedures:

A full explanation of student evaluation will be presented by the Instructor's Supplementary Syllabus the first week of class.

B. Laboratory Expectations: N/A

C. Field Work: Students are expected to attend a class tour of the Knox County Jail.

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

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 syllabus supplement.
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 Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. (*Pellissippi State Online Catalog*)

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. A student guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, is immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through the regular Pellissippi State procedures as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an F or a zero for the exercise or examination or to assign an F in the course. (*Pellissippi State Online Catalog*)

C. Accommodation for Disabilities:

Students who 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 Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course.

Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at www.pstcc.edu/departments/swd/.

D. Extended College Closure:

Pellissippi State Community College is committed to the educational process and student learning. In the event of a prolonged college closure (of at least a week), the educational process will continue through the use of the college's on-line learning environment (Desire2Learn). The instructor will post instructions, specific assignments, due dates, etc. in Desire2Learn (D2L). It is the student's responsibility to login to D2L and check posted instructions and assignments.