Pellissippi State Community College
Master Syllabus

FAMILY LAW
LAW 2110

Class Hours: 3.0	Instructor:
Credit Hours: 3.0	Office:
Laboratory Hours: 0.0	Phone:
Revised: 12/03/2010	Email:

Catalog Course Description:

A study of substantive and procedural law relating to divorce, custody, support and adoption and the legal assistant's role in domestic cases.

Entry Level Standards:

College-level competencies in logic, reading, and English are required.

Prerequisites:

LAW 1000; ENGL 1010

Corequisites:

LAW 1060

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

1. Luppino, Grace A. and Miller, J.F., ***Family Law and Practice: The Paralegal's Guide***, (Pearson/Prentice Hall 2008). ISBN: 0-13-238199-0

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to Family Law Practice (1.5 hours); Ethics (1.5 hours)
2	Marriage and marriage statutes (0.5 hour); Cohabitation (0.5 hour); Same Sex marriage (1.0 hour); Premarital Agreements (1.0 hour)
3	Divorce (2.0 hours); Defenses to divorce (0.5 hour); The Client Interview (0.5 hour).
4	Property distribution (1.5 hours); Debt distribution (1.5 hours)
5	Alimony (2.0 hours); Child Custody (1.0 hour)
6	Child Custody (1.0 hour); Visitation (1.0 hour); Parenting Plans(1.0 hour)
7	Parenting Plans- continued (1.0); Child Support (2 hours)
8	Initial Responsive Pleadings in Divorce Cases (1.5 hours); Pendente Lite proceedings (1.5 hours)
9	Discovery in Domestic Relations cases (3.0 hours)
10	Marital Dissolution Agreements (2.0 hours); Final Decrees (1.0 hour)
11	ADR (1.0 hour); Divorce Trial (2.0 hours)

Week	Topic
12	Post-Judgment Divorce Matters(1.5 hours); Domestic Violence (1.5 hour)
13	Juvenile Court proceedings: The legitimation process (1.0 hours); child custody and support (1.0 hour); Child protection (1.0 hour)
14	Termination of parental rights (1.0 hour), Adoption (2.0 hours)
15	Final Exam Period

II. Course Goals*:

A. The course will build student communication skills and expand their legal vocabularies through completion of weekly guided exercises that shall allow them to communicate more effectively with lawyers, legal professionals, and clients. (II, III, IV)

B. The course will guide students with practice elements of the work ethic such as professionalism, preparedness, punctuality, honesty, cooperation, dependability, contribution, effectiveness, and good manners. (I, II, V)

C. The course will strengthen analytical skills by locating court cases and statutes in the ERC and on Westlaw to determine the application of the rules of family law to specific facts. (II,III, IV, V)

D. The course will provide an examination of ethical issues related to legal representation, unauthorized practice of law, confidentiality, and duty of legal professional to provide legal services. (I,II)

E. The course will provide the students with a basic understanding of the laws affecting families and children. (I, II).

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the (*Paralegal Studies*)program (Career Program Goals and General Education Goals are listed http://www.pstcc.edu/departments/curriculum_and_instruction/syllabi/)

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

1. Students will be able to recognize and avoid acts that constitute the unauthorized practice of law. (B,D,E)
2. Students will be able to recognize and avoid acts that constitute the breach of client confidentiality. (B,D,E)
3. Students will be able to recognize potential and actual conflict of interest situations. (B,D,E)
4. Students will identify basic terminology of domestic law. (A, C, E)
5. Students will be able to recognize and explain the function and purpose of antenuptial agreements. (A,C,E)
6. Students will be able to identify and classify the various kinds of property the domestic client and spouse have acquired. (A,C,E)
7. Students will be able to distinguish an irreconcilable difference divorce from a divorce on grounds. (B,C,D,E)
8. Students will be able to identify the proper courts that have jurisdiction over domestic matters. (B,C,D,E)
9. Students will be able to recognize, understand and use the basic terms associated with paternity and legitimation. (C,E)

10. Students will be able to read domestic statutes and understand terminology. (C,E)
11. Students will be able to interpret state domestic law statutes and determine who may marry. (C,E)
12. Students will be able to interpret state statutes on divorce and determine grounds for divorce. (C,E)
13. Students will be able to interpret state child support guidelines and compute child support. (C,E)
14. Students will know the difference between marital and nonmarital property. (C,D,E)
15. Students shall understand the rights and obligations of both custodial and noncustodial parents. (C,D,E)
16. Students shall recognize the formal requirements for a valid marriage. (C,D,E)
17. Students shall develop and use checklists to elicit the information necessary for the preliminary draft of a divorce complaint.(A,B,C,D,E)
18. Students shall develop and use checklists to elicit the information necessary for the preliminary draft of a custody modification petition. (A,B,C,D,E)
19. Students shall develop and use checklists to elicit the information necessary for the preliminary draft of a child support modification petition. (A,B,C,D,E)
20. Students shall understand the role of a guardian ad litem in custody proceedings. (C,D,E)
21. Students shall recognize the paralegals role in assisting the attorney in performing the required duties of a domestic practice. (A,B,C,D,E)
22. Students shall recognize and define the techniques for child support enforcement. (C,D,E)

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

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 80% of grade
The primary evaluation technique in this course will be through testing.

B. Laboratory Expectations: N/A

C. Field Work: N/A

D. Other Evaluation Methods: 20% of grade
Students shall draft documents appropriate for a family law practice

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. Accommodations 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. Other Policies:

1. **Supplementary Syllabus.**

   Legal writing, analysis, and citation exercises will be assigned, and will be fully explained by the Instructor's supplementary syllabus. All work shall be expected to be typed unless otherwise instructed.

2. **Late Work:**

   Late papers will not be accepted nor will make-up tests be given without specific approval of the instructor.

3. **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)*