

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
PLS 1000 INTRODUCTION TO LAW - SPRING 2020

January 13th - May 12th
3 Credit Hours

COURSE SYLLABUS VERSION 1

Last Modified _____

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. This syllabus (and any revised version) is located in Blackboard. The instructor will not respond to requests for information that is contained in this syllabus.

Instructor: Zoë Lemcovitz, J.D.

Contact Information: zoe.lemcovitz@slu.edu

Office: Verhaegen Hall, Room 105 or 117

Office Hours: TBA. **Appointments during specified office hours are preferred.** Requests for appointments should be made via e-mail no less than 48 hours before the requested appointment time.

Lab Section 101 Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Patrick Monahan

Contact: patrick.monahan@slu.edu

Office: Verhaegen Hall, Room 105 or 117

Office Hours: TBA

Lab Section 102 Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Maysa Daoud

Contact Information: maysa.daoud@slu.edu

Office: Verhaegen Hall, Room 105 or 117

Office Hours: TBA

Class Time: Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Lab Class Time: Section 101 Thursdays 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.; Section 102 Thursdays 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

NOTE: No class 3/10 & 3/12 - Spring Break; No class 4/9 - Easter Break

Classroom Location: Xavier Hall Annex 203

Lab Classroom Location: Section 101 Xavier Hall Annex 203; Section 102 Xavier Hall Annex 203

Required Text(s): *The Study of Law: A Critical Thinking Approach* (4th Edition), Katherine A. Currier and Thomas E. Eimermann, Aspen Publishers (2016) ISBN: 978-1-4548-5222-3. www.WKLegaledu.com, www.wolterskluerlb.com. Additional materials will be placed on electronic reserve (e-reserve), accessible through Pius Library, or on Blackboard.

Recommended Text(s): Any law dictionary; any English language dictionary; any thesaurus; *A Pocket Style Manual* (7th ed.), Diana Hacker, Nancy Sommers, Bedford/St. Martin's, (2015) macmillanhighered.com hackerhandbooks.com/pocket or similar grammar and writing handbook.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the law and legal principles. The course will educate students on the structure of the court system, civil litigation, and methods of alternative dispute resolution. Specific areas of study include: torts, contracts, property, trusts and estates, corporations, family law, and criminal law and procedure.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the end of the course:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the three branches of government in general.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the structure and processes of the American legal system.
3. Students will identify various sources of law (e.g., common law, statutes, administrative regulations), describe how those sources are developed and articulate differences among them in terms of their legal effect.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of state and federal court structures.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of alternative dispute resolution options.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of content area in the following areas of law: civil procedure, contracts, criminal law, torts, and property.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Lecture and discussion on assigned reading; homework assignments (described later in this syllabus); Blackboard; tests and/or quizzes (as described in this syllabus); pop quizzes may be given; guest lecturers may be invited to speak; handouts may be given; videos may be used; field trips may be arranged; other instructional methods may be used at the discretion of the instructor.

EVALUATION OF STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE:

1. **Class attendance:** Please refer to "Attendance" under "Course Policies" below. Note: class attendance will be a part of the total course grade.
2. **Class participation:** Class participation is measured by the instructor's subjective determination of the frequency and more importantly the quality of the student's involvement in the classroom and/or online (if appropriate). Included in this are the instructor's observations regarding the student's engaging in work and/or activities not related to what is going on in the classroom including but not limited to violating the Technology In Class policy in this syllabus. Note: class participation will be factored in to determine the grade up or down for the course when the student is "on the bubble" of two grades.
3. **Assignments, tests and quizzes:** Grades will be based upon the total points earned by the student. Except as otherwise indicated the criteria and scale(s) to be used in assessing student performance are set forth in the "Grading" section of this syllabus. Assignments will be given including but not limited to those more particularly described in the "Assignments" section of this syllabus.

Assignments, tests and quizzes in this course shall have the following weights in the student's total grade for the course:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment	25	Points
SLU Legal Topic Event Assignment	50	Points
Legislation Exercise	30	Points
Lab Project #1*	100	Points
Lab Project #2*	100	Points
Lab Project #3*	100	Points
Midterm (Chapters 1-6)	275	Points
Ethics Test	30	Points
Final Exam (Chapters 7-13)	275	Points
Attendance/Participation	15	Points
Total	1,000	Points

Pre-Law Scholars and Honors Students will have an additional assignment as described in the Assignments section of this syllabus.

*These assignments are completed as part of the lab component of the class. Instruction on and grading of these assignments is provided by the graduate teaching assistant for the course. **A separate syllabus is issued for the lab assignments.**

Extra Credit: Extra credit opportunities are offered periodically across the semester. They are described in the Assignments section of this syllabus. These extra credit assignments must be submitted through Blackboard within the time window specified. Once the due date has passed, extra credit assignments will not be accepted unless you have spoken with the instructor and received an extension (this will occur on a case-by-case basis and cannot happen after the assignment date has passed – you must discuss any conflicts prior to the assignment due date). The following extra credit opportunities are available:

Extra Credit Opportunity #1 (goes toward total course grade)	6	Points
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Extra Credit Opportunity #2 (goes toward Legislation Exercise grade)	5	Points
Extra Credit Opportunity #3 (goes toward total course grade)	5	Points
Total	16	Points

GRADING:

1. **Criteria for tests and quizzes:** Correct answers to questions posed. Half credit will be given at the discretion of the instructor where appropriate.
2. **Criteria for written assignments:** (1) all assignment content requirements are met, (2) correct and/or logical conclusion is reached, sources used (if any) are credible, relevant, and properly integrated and cited, (3) the assignment is free of grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors, and has been adequately proofread and is free of typographical errors, (4) sentences are well formed, complete, clear and minimize passive voice and paragraphs are well structured, transition clearly, and are arranged in a logical order, and (5) formatting requirements have been met. *NOTE: Errors are identified/corrected only once on an assignment; recurring errors must be corrected. An A (including A-) will not be given to an assignment (other than a test, quiz or extemporaneous classroom work) containing five or more of any of the following errors: grammar, punctuation, spelling, typographical, poor sentence structure, poor paragraph structure, poor paragraph arrangement. Proofread your assignment before you turn it in. For assignments turned in on paper, if you find errors and do not have time to retype or reprint a corrected hard copy, make the corrections neatly in blue or black ink.*
3. **Criteria for oral report assignments:** (1) all assignment content requirements are covered, (2) report is delivered in a well prepared manner (not simply read aloud to the class), (3) questions posed by the class and/or instructor are adequately addressed, (4) professionally and articulately addressed to the class (no “um,” “you know,” “like”), and presented (visual aids such as PowerPoints, Keynotes, Prezis, videos, handouts, etc. look professional and are used competently), (5) professional appearance (countenance, posture, gestures, and dress).
4. **Assignment weights:** Unless indicated otherwise in this syllabus, all tests, quizzes, and assignments are equally weighted.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	Points
A	93-100	930-1000
A-	90-92	900-929
B+	87-89	870-899
B	83-86	830-869
B-	80-82	800-829
C+	77-79	770-799
C	70-76	700-769
C-	64-69	640-699
D	60-63	600-639
F	Below 60	0-599

COURSE POLICIES:

- **University Policy on Attendance:** Students must meet course objectives and attendance policies as outlined in the course syllabus. In cases where absences prevent students from meeting course objectives, students may be required to drop the course or be administratively dropped or withdrawn. Additionally, students are responsible for:
 - Being on time and attending all class meetings for courses in which they are registered.
 - Making every effort to schedule classes that will minimize conflicts caused by foreseeable activities and related travel.
 - Monitoring their attendance and absences throughout the term.
 - Reviewing course syllabi with regard to the instructor's policy on absences and consulting the instructor if any portion of the attendance policy outlined in the syllabus is not understood.

In regard to absences, whether excused as an authorized activity or at the instructor's discretion, students are responsible for:

- All material covered in class and must work with each individual instructor to complete any required work and obtain any class notes or other course material missed due to these absences.
- Coordinating with instructors prior to any examination or presentation in order to explore the impact of the missed assignments and options.
- Providing written notification, as outlined below, of all other absences as soon as possible, for events not foreseen at the beginning of the semester. (See [Authorized Absence Activities](#) below and the [Bereavement Policy](#) for additional information)

- **University Policy on Absences:** In addition to authorized absences, instructors have the authority to excuse absences for other reasons. Documentation for short-term absences may be required at the instructor's discretion. In the event that several classes have been missed and students are unable to meet course objectives they should consult with the instructor and academic advisor about course extensions (see the [Incomplete Course](#) policy) or a course withdrawal (see [Course Withdrawal](#) policy).

Medical documentation may be required in cases of serious illness or medical conditions which impact a student's ability to participate in courses for an extended period. In the event of a chronic medical condition or disability, students are strongly advised to contact the Dean of Students and/or the Office of Disability Services to explore potential accommodations.

- **University Policy on Authorized Absence Activities:** As previously stated, in the event that several classes have been missed and students are unable to meet course objectives they should consult with the instructor and academic advisor about course extensions (see the [Incomplete Course](#) policy) or a course withdrawal (see [Course Withdrawal](#) policy). Each instructor will excuse students from class for authorized activities (see below) and provide an opportunity to complete missed exams, quizzes, and other required work.

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with each individual instructor as soon as they return to complete any required work. Missed required work may be replaced by alternative assignments at the instructor's discretion.

Authorized activities [and required documentation] are defined as:

- Participation in Division 1 athletic games and associated travel (excluding practices) [Official notification from Saint Louis University Athletics];
- Appearances required as part of a Saint Louis University investigation/hearing [Official notification from the Dean of Students or Academic Dean];
- Short-term service with the military and/or First Responder (see the Military Policy for additional information and notification timeline) [Letter of deployment or official notification of required service];
- Legal obligation (e.g jury duty, required court appearance) [Official notification of required appearance];
- Religious Holiday Observance [Students must notify instructors in writing by the end of the first week of the semester of all religious holidays they observe that conflict with their course meetings and activities]. Instructors will notify students promptly if these absences will prevent the student from meeting the course objectives so that the student may drop the course during the add/drop period); and
- Bereavement [Official notification from the Dean of Students or Academic Dean]. Upon request to and approval by the Dean of Students Office, students shall be given up to five (5) consecutive days (not including weekends or holidays) of excused absence for bereavement.

- **Instructor Policy on Attendance, Absences, and Authorized Absence Activities (subject to the foregoing University Policies):** Student attendance and participation are part of the total course grade for each student. Students are expected to contact the instructor (preferably via e-mail) in advance of a class that will be missed.

Note: *"absent" shall be defined as: (a) missing 30 minutes or more of any one class, therefore, arriving late and/or leaving early may result in an absence OR (b) the instructor observing that the student is engaging in work and/or activities not related to what is going on in the classroom including but not limited to sleeping or violating the Technology In Class policy in this syllabus.* Talk to the instructor if you have any questions about the attendance policy. A good rule of thumb for this course is a maximum of **3 absences**. Exceeding that number of absences may

result in lost Attendance/Participation points and therefore a lower grade in the course, or a grade of “FQ” which is a “failure due to quit attending.”

In the event you miss a class you are responsible for getting lecture notes, class assignments or other information about the missed class from a source other than the instructor.

- **Late Assignments:** *With the exception of an unforeseen excused absence, late assignments (including quizzes, tests and exams) will not be accepted and the grade for the assignment will be a zero (0).* In preparing assignments, plan ahead, save and back-up your work regularly.

- **Communication:** *The most effective way to get in touch with the instructor is via e-mail at zoe.lemcovitz@slu.edu. All e-mail communication (to and from) must be through your Saint Louis University e-mail account only.* Please sign your e-mails with your full name. The instructor will usually respond to e-mails in 24 to 48 hours excluding breaks and weekends. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate any questions, concerns, and/or difficulties the student is having related to the course. ***Check your SLU e-mail regularly as this is how the instructor will communicate with you outside of class.***

- **Technology In Class:** Personal electronic devices (e.g., laptops, iPads, cell phones) can be used to enhance learning and instruction in a variety of ways, but during class time they should be used only for class-related activities. Texting and the use of personal electronic devices for non-class-related activities should be reserved for class break times. Students must ***silence and stow all personal electronic devices not being used for class-related activities*** prior to the commencement of class. Give your full and undivided attention to what is going on in class. ***If you are observed by the instructor engaging in non-class-related activities you will be marked as absent for that class meeting. NOTE: this will be considered an absence under the course attendance policy.***

- **Academic Integrity Policy:**

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf.

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. Although students in U1010 Medical Scholar class come from different colleges, the Pre-Health Pre-Law Studies follow procedures of the College of Arts and Sciences accessed at: <https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/student-resources/academic-honesty.php>.

All SLU students are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions, and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your instructor.

NOTE: In order to maintain the integrity of any test or quiz given during class, **students may not leave the room until they have completed the test or quiz.**

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STUDENTS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE:

Disabilities Services Academic Accommodations Statement: Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at Disability_services@slu.edu or 314.977.3484 to schedule an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor's course roster.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact to Disability Services.

Student Success Center: In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center assists students with academic-related services and is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331). Students can visit <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/> to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

University Writing Services: Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/> or call the Student Success Center at 314-977-3484.

Library Resources: The Pius XII Memorial Library is located on the Frost Campus. Services available through the Pius Library include Ask-A-Librarian and On-Call Librarian Services. Ask-A-Librarian Service is a 24 hour chat service available at <https://libanswers.slu.edu/> (and through many of SLU's databases). Students can also meet with a librarian on a drop in basis anytime between 9 and 5 Monday-Friday. More information can be found at <http://lib.slu.edu>.

Pius Librarian Rebecca Hyde (rebecca.hyde@slu.edu) has specializations that make her a great resource for this course. Additionally, at the Saint Louis University School of Law Library, Librarian Lynn Hartke (lynn.hartke@slu.edu 314-977-2756) is another resource for materials or information not available at Pius Library.

Title IX: Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; akratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886) and share the basic facts of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. To view SLU's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: www.slu.edu/here4you and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

Personal: If you are struggling emotionally or undergoing a personal/family crisis, contact the University Counseling Center for free, confidential, counseling at 314-977-TALK (8255), or visit the clinic in Wuller Hall, 2nd Floor (3711 West Pine Mall, Saint Louis, Missouri 63108). The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. More information can be found at: <http://www.slu.edu/university-counseling-center>.

Basic Needs Security: Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office (deanofstudents@slu.edu or

314-977-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable the instructor to assist you with finding the resources you may need.

Campus Notification System: RAVE Messenger: All members of the Saint Louis University community, including students, staff, and faculty, are strongly encouraged to sign up for the campus notification system that is designed to enhance and improve communication in the event of an emergency. Information about RAVE Messenger and how to sign up can be found at <http://www.slu.edu/public-safety-and-emergency-preparedness-home/emergency-notification/register-with-rave-messenger>.

Technical Support: Information Technology Services (ITS) supports the faculty, staff, and students of the University. Contact ITS at 314-977-4000. More information can be found at: <http://www.slu.edu/its>. The Tech Service Center (TSC) located in the Busch Student Center and TSC-South located in Caroline Hall support the University community. Contact TSC at 314-977-4000 extension 2, e-mail/chat at studentservicedesk@slu.edu or walk in to either location. More information can be found at: <http://www.slu.edu/busch-student-center/student-tech-service-center/service-support-and-information/about-the-tsc>.

Blackboard Learn: Blackboard Learn is the learning management system (LMS) available to the Saint Louis University community. Blackboard provides an online space for instructors to share course content, manage student work, and access to tools that can support activities such as group work, class discussions, and student projects. Students will find the syllabus, assignments, modules, course content, announcements, grades, discussions, and student evaluations on Blackboard. Unless otherwise indicated, all quizzes and examinations are taken through Blackboard and all assignments are to be submitted through Blackboard. SLU's Blackboard LMS is accessed at: https://blackboard.slu.edu/webapps/portal/execute/tabs/tabAction?tab_tab_group_id=90_1. For help with Blackboard contact Information Technology Services at 314-977-4000. More information can be found at <http://www.slu.edu/its/services-and-products/academic-resources/blackboard-learn/faculty-support/getting-started/>.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

Learning about the law is a lot like learning a foreign language. Initially you may feel overwhelmed by the terminology and amount of material that you are expected to cover. Unfortunately, much of legal writing, such as court opinions, is written for attorneys and not for students. Therefore, the writers presuppose a knowledge of the law that you, of course, do not have. With persistence, however, you will find that studying will become progressively easier as the semester proceeds. In the meantime, the following is suggested:

- 1) Plan on reading everything at least twice. The first time through do not be too concerned with understanding every detail. Rather, try to gain an overview of the material. The second time through be more meticulous. Take notes, circle or highlight especially important points, and bring your questions with you to class. Look up words (both legal and non-legal) that are unfamiliar to you.
- 2) Do not plan on doing all of an assignment at one sitting. Also, do not put off beginning an assignment to the night before it is due.
- 3) If there are too many distractions at home, do your studying elsewhere.
- 4) Buy and use a legal dictionary, and a grammar/style handbook.

Do assignments timely; be attentive and take active notes in class; read and write critically; ask the instructor for help after you have exhausted all other independent resources for answers; do not wait until the last minute to begin working on assignments.

Take your education seriously; treat it as you would any paid employment you would undertake.

NO LEGAL ADVICE:

No material in this course is intended to constitute legal advice. The instructor is prohibited by professional ethics and University policy from giving students specific legal advice. Please do not rely on the information presented in this course in lieu of obtaining a professional legal opinion from an attorney licensed to practice law in the applicable jurisdiction.

COURSE OUTLINE

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs.

All revised versions of this syllabus will be posted on Blackboard.

NOTE: Work described in “Homework” below is to be prepared in advance of class and unless otherwise indicated is due in class, at the beginning of class. The assignments referenced below are more particularly described in the “Assignments” section of this syllabus. Checkboxes () are included below to help you track completion of homework and assignments.

ABBREVIATIONS:

“TSOL” refers to the textbook *The Study of Law: A Critical Thinking Approach*

WEEK 1

Class TUESDAY - 1/14

Homework: None

Classroom Work: Introduction to the course; syllabus review; discuss semester assignments: Legal Topic Event; newspaper assignment; Legislation Exercise; lab section; Extra Credit Opportunities.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 1/16

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

WEEK 2

REMINDER: Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students sign up for paper topic during Weeks 2-4 for the Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

Class TUESDAY - 1/21

Homework: Read TSOL Chapter 1 Introduction to the Study of Law AND TSOL Chapter 2 Functions and Sources of Law.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 1/23

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

WEEK 3

REMINDER: Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students sign up for paper topic during Weeks 2-4 for the Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

REMINDER: Extra Credit Opportunity #1 due this week.

Class TUESDAY - 1/28

Homework: Read TSOL Chapter 3 Classification of the Law.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 1/30

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

WEEK 4

REMINDER: Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students sign up for paper topic during Weeks 2-4 for the Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

Class TUESDAY - 2/4

Homework: Read TSOL Chapter 4 Court System and Role of Judges.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 2/6

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

FRIDAY - 2/7 Turn in Assignment(s): Legislation Exercise topic.

WEEK 5

REMINDER: Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students meet individually with instructor sometime during Weeks 5-6 regarding Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

MONDAY-FRIDAY - Week 5 students prepare St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment.

Class TUESDAY - 2/11

Homework: Read TSOL Chapter 5 Civil Litigation and Its Alternatives.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 2/13

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

SUNDAY - 2/16 Turn in Assignment(s): Week 5 students submit St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment to Blackboard.

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WEEK 6

REMINDER: Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students meet individually with instructor sometime during Weeks 5-6 regarding Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

MONDAY-FRIDAY - ☐ Week 6 students prepare St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment.

TUESDAY - 2/18

Homework: ☐ Read TSOL Chapter 6 Constitutional Law.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 2/20

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

FRIDAY - 2/21 Turn in Assignment(s): Legislation Exercise report.

SUNDAY - 2/23 Turn in Assignment(s): Week 6 students submit St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment to Blackboard.

WEEK 7

MONDAY-FRIDAY - ☐ Week 7 students prepare St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment.

TUESDAY - 2/25

Homework: ☐ Read TSOL Chapter 6 Constitutional Law continued.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 2/27

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

SUNDAY - 3/1 Turn in Assignment(s): Week 7 students submit St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment to Blackboard.

WEEK 8

REMINDER: Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students topic proposal due this week for Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

Class TUESDAY - 3/3

Homework: ☐ Prepare for Midterm.

Classroom Work: Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-6)

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

WEDNESDAY - 3/4 Turn in Assignment(s): Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students: topic proposal for Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

Class THURSDAY - 3/5

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

WEEK 9

NOTE: No class 3/10 & 3/12 - Spring Break.

MONDAY-FRIDAY - ☐ Week 9 students prepare St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment.

TUESDAY - 3/17

Homework: ☐ Read TSOL Chapter 7 Torts.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 3/19

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

SUNDAY - 3/22 Turn in Assignment(s): Week 9 students submit St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment to Blackboard.

WEEK 10

REMINDER: Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students paper outline due this week for Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

MONDAY-FRIDAY - ☐ Week 10 students prepare St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment.

TUESDAY - 3/24

Homework: ☐ Read TSOL Chapter 8 Contracts.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 3/26

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

FRIDAY - 3/27 Turn in Assignment(s): Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students: outline for Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

SUNDAY - 3/29 Turn in Assignment(s): Week 10 students submit St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment to Blackboard.

WEEK 11

REMINDER: Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Paper due this week.

MONDAY-FRIDAY - ☐ Week 11 students prepare St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment.

TUESDAY - 3/31

Homework: ☐ Read TSOL Chapter 9 Property and Estate Law AND TSOL Chapter 14 Ethics.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 4/2

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments; Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Paper.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

FRIDAY - 4/3 Turn in Assignment(s): Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Students: final paper for Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment.

SUNDAY - 4/5 Turn in Assignment(s): Week 11 students submit St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment to Blackboard.

WEEK 12

Class TUESDAY - 4/7

Homework: ☐ Prepare for Ethics Test.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None..

Returned Assignment(s): None.

NOTE: No class 4/9 - Easter Break.

WEEK 13

MONDAY-FRIDAY - ☐ Week 13 students prepare St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment.

TUESDAY - 4/14

Homework: ☐ Read TSOL Chapter 10 Laws Affecting Business.

Classroom Work: Ethics Test (Chapter 14).

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 4/16

Lab with Graduate Teaching Assistant

Homework: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Classroom Work: Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Turn In Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

Returned Assignment(s): Refer to the separate Lab Syllabus for the lab assignments.

SUNDAY - 4/19 Turn in Assignment(s): Week 13 students submit St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment to Blackboard.

WEEK 14

MONDAY-FRIDAY - ☐ Week 14 students prepare St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment.

TUESDAY - 4/21

Homework: ☐ Read TSOL Chapter 11 Family Law.

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 4/23

Homework: ☐ TBA

Classroom Work: TBA

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

SUNDAY - 4/26 Turn in Assignment(s): Week 14 students submit St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment to Blackboard.

WEEK 15

REMINDER: Please complete an online evaluation for this course.

REMINDER: Extra Credit Opportunity #3 due this week.

Class TUESDAY - 4/28

Homework: ☐ Read TSOL Chapters 12 Criminal Law AND TSOL Chapter 13 Criminal Procedure

Classroom Work: Discuss assigned reading; in-class exercises.

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None.

Class THURSDAY - 4/30

Homework: ☐ Prepare for Final Exam (Chapters 7-13).

Classroom Work: Final Exam (unless rescheduled to Week 17)

Turn In Assignment(s): None.

Returned Assignment(s): None; Pink Sheets.

WEEK 16

Monday - 5/4 ☐ Last day to turn in SLU Legal Topic Event Attendance Assignment.

WEEK 17

NOTE: Final Exam will be held in in the last regular class meeting (Week 15) unless it becomes necessary to hold it during Final Exam week (Weeks 16/17). Advanced notice will be given if the Final Exam must be rescheduled.

If the Final Exam is rescheduled it will be held: **12:00-1:50 on Tuesday, 5/12.**

Location: **Regular classroom.**

ASSIGNMENTS

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs.

All revised versions of this syllabus will be posted on Blackboard.

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Unless otherwise indicated all assignments are to be completed prior to the beginning of class.
2. Use full sentences, correct grammar, spelling and punctuation to the best of your abilities in all your assignments. If you have weaknesses in any of these areas, utilize the writing services in the Student Success Center or University Writing Center or both to polish your work. *NOTE: An A (including A-) will not be given to an assignment (other than a test, quiz or extemporaneous classroom work) containing **five** or more of the following errors: grammar, punctuation, spelling, typographical, poor sentence structure, poor paragraph structure, poor paragraph arrangement. Proofread your assignment before you turn it in. For assignments turned in on paper, if you find errors and do not have time to retype or reprint a corrected hard copy, make the corrections neatly in blue or black ink.*
3. Unless instructed otherwise, formatting for all written assignments is Times New Roman 12 point font (or equivalent), reasonable margins, and double-spaced unless the particular assignment specifies different formatting. Include a footer with your name and the page number and page count i.e. Zoë Lemcovitz, Page 1 of 3. In the upper right hand corner of the first page please include your name, the date, the name of the course, the name of the assignment, and any other necessary or appropriate information. For assignments that are to be submitted on paper, in addition to the foregoing formatting requirements they should be typed or computer processed on 8 1/2" X 11", 20-lb. white paper and stapled. Double sided printing is permitted.

Assignment: SLU Legal Topic Event Assignment

Weight: 50 Points

Due: Within one week following event, but no later than 5/4 (Week 15 - Monday) - failure to find an event before the semester ends will not be excused.

Submission Format: Online through Blackboard using the prescribed document template provided on Blackboard.

Description: Attend a Saint Louis University or Saint Louis University School of Law event covering a topic in law. There are at least two pre-law organizations on the Saint Louis University Frost Campus: Political Round Table and Amicus Curiae Pre-Law Society. Both groups host events throughout the semester. More information about each group can be found using the following links:

Political Round Table: <https://groups.sluconnection.com/organization/prt>

Amicus Curiae: <https://groups.sluconnection.com/organization/phialphadelta>

The Saint Louis University School of Law hosts events throughout the semester covering law topics. More information can be found here: <https://www.slu.edu/law/events/index.php>. Note: if you choose to attend an event at the Law School, make sure that it is open to the public, or that as a member of the SLU community who is not a law student that you may attend.

There may be other events on the Frost Campus that cover legal topics and you are permitted to attend such an event.

In conjunction with attending the event, you should complete the assignment document titled "Legal Topic Event Assignment" located on Blackboard and submit it to the Blackboard dropbox for the assignment.

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□ **Assignment:** St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment

Weight: 25 Points

Due: 11:59 p.m. on the Sunday following your assigned week (see schedule posted to Blackboard).

Submission Format: Online through Blackboard using the prescribed document template provided on Blackboard.

Description: During your assigned week (see schedule posted to Blackboard) read the St. Louis Post-Dispatch PRINT EDITION each day (Monday through Friday) of that week. Choose one article covering a story that involves the law directly or indirectly in some way. You **MAY NOT CHOOSE** anything in the “Law and Order” section of the paper. There are free copies of the Post-Dispatch available on a first come, first served basis at the Pius Library entrance adjacent to Einstein’s and Pius Library keeps a reference copy of each day’s Post-Dispatch for approximately one month. Additionally there may be free copies of the Post-Dispatch available in the School of Business on the south edge of the large open atrium, and in Busch Student Center.

Document your article by taking a picture of the article and the top of the page on which it appears showing the page number, the date, and Post-Dispatch name. If the article and top of the page won’t fit in one picture, then two pictures will be necessary. If the article continues on another page, a picture of the initial page is all that is required.

For your chosen article, complete the assignment document titled “St. Louis Post-Dispatch Article Assignment” located on Blackboard and submit it to the appropriate Blackboard dropbox.

□ **Assignment: Legislation Exercise**

Weight: 30 Points (topic submission 3 points, exercise 27 points)

Due: Topic due in Week 4 by 11:59 p.m. on **Friday 2/7**; Report due in Week 6 by 11:59 p.m. on **Friday 2/21**.

Submission Format: Topic selection - via e-mail to the instructor; Written assignment - online through Blackboard.

Description: Review the bill tracker found at <https://legiscan.com/MO/legislation/2019>. Identify a bill that was pending in the Missouri state legislature in **2019** and is of interest to you based on its subject matter (healthcare, sports, agriculture, etc.). It is not important that the bill passed; merely that it was proposed and you are interested in the subject matter. You may certainly choose a bill that did pass.

Review the title and content of the bill. Using print sources available in the Pius XII Memorial Library or online databases available through the Pius XII Memorial Library webpage, or .gov domains or a combination thereof, search for at least two articles that support and two article that oppose the the bill you selected. If you are unable to find the required number of articles written about the bill, you may use articles supporting or opposing the subject matter of the bill to reach the required number of articles. Note: you should strive to have as many articles discussing the bill itself as possible.

Write a report containing:

1. the title and the number of the bill,
2. a brief summary of the bill,
3. a pro and con discussion derived from the articles you’ve reviewed, and
4. your stand regarding the bill (do you support or not support) and an explanation of why.

Use APA or MLA citation style (in accordance with your major). **Please note: citations to Wikipedia or similar openly editable and unreviewed online sources are not acceptable**. The report should be 2-4 pages long (not including the works cited page) and meet the formatting requirements in the General Assignment Requirements section of this syllabus.

Do not hesitate to seek assistance from the University Writing Services (UWS) or the Pius XII Memorial Library librarians or both. More information about both can be found in the Students Requiring Assistance section of this syllabus.

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□ **Assignment: Lab Project #1**

Weight: 100 Points

Due: TBA

Submission Format: TBA

Description: Students will be required to do three projects in the lab component of the course. Each project is worth 10%, for a total of 30% of the total course grade. The graduate teaching assistance for the course will provide more detailed information about the required assignments. The assignments include a case brief, an oral presentation related to an issue of constitutional law, and a legal analysis problem. You are strongly encouraged to work closely with your graduate teaching assistant and take advantage of his/her office hours and feedback on your projects in the planning stages.

□ **Assignment: Lab Project #2**

Weight: 100 Points

Due: TBA

Submission Format: TBA

Description: Students will be required to do three projects in the lab component of the course. Each project is worth 10%, for a total of 30% of the total course grade. The graduate teaching assistance for the course will provide more detailed information about the required assignments. The assignments include a case brief, an oral presentation related to an issue of constitutional law, and a legal analysis problem. You are strongly encouraged to work closely with your graduate teaching assistant and take advantage of his/her office hours and feedback on your projects in the planning stages.

□ **Assignment: Lab Project #3**

Weight: 100 Points

Due: TBA

Submission Format: TBA

Description: Students will be required to do three projects in the lab component of the course. Each project is worth 10%, for a total of 30% of the total course grade. The graduate teaching assistance for the course will provide more detailed information about the required assignments. The assignments include a case brief, an oral presentation related to an issue of constitutional law, and a legal analysis problem. You are strongly encouraged to work closely with your graduate teaching assistant and take advantage of his/her office hours and feedback on your projects in the planning stages.

□ **Pre-Law Scholars & Honors Student Assignment**

Due: Paper Topic Sign Up - Week 2-4 sign up for paper topic;

Instructor Meeting - Week 5-6 meet with the instructor by appointment to discuss paper idea and suggested approaches;

Paper Topic Proposal - Week 8 on **Wednesday 3/4** a one page paper detailing paper idea, research strategy, some relevant credible sources, and possible thesis;

Paper Outline - Week 10 on **Friday 3/27** outline detailing research sources and literature cites;

Final Paper - Week 11 on **Friday 4/3** final paper.

Submission Format: Paper Topic Sign-Up - online through Blackboard

Instructor Meeting - in person in instructor's office or another mutually agreed upon location.

Paper Topic Proposal - online through Blackboard.

Paper Outline - online through Blackboard.

Final Paper - online through Blackboard.

Description: Pre-Law Scholars and Honors Students are required to write a paper addressing a piece of literature and analyzing it in connection with a theory of jurisprudence. The paper must include footnotes and a bibliography and be 7-9 pages long and meet the formatting requirements in the General Assignment Requirements section of this syllabus. A minimum of 5-7 reference sources must be used. A description of various paper topics will be available in Blackboard. Up to two students per topic. Students may propose a topic of their own subject to instructor approval. Do not hesitate to seek assistance from the University Writing Services (UWS) or the Pius XII Memorial Library or both. More information about both can be found in the Students Requiring Assistance section of this syllabus.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra Credit Opportunity #1

Weight: 6 Points (5 points for Practice Test and 1 point for Practice Assignment) (toward total course grade)

Due: Week 3 at 11:59 p.m. on **Friday 1/31**

Submission Format: Online through Blackboard.

Description: Log on to Blackboard. (1) Complete the “Extra Credit Opportunity #1 Practice Test” under the “TESTS & QUIZZES” button on the left side of Blackboard; and (2) submit a practice assignment to the dropbox for “Practice Assignment for Extra Credit Opportunity #1” located under the “ASSIGNMENTS” button on the left side of Blackboard. For the practice assignment use one of the following prompts and limit your response to five sentences or less: (1) *Why are you interested in studying law?* (2) *If you had a superpower what would it be and why?* (3) *Who is someone you admire greatly?*

Extra Credit Opportunity #2

Weight: 5 Points

Due: Week 6 11:59 p.m. on **Wednesday 2/19**

Submission Format: Written assignment - online through Blackboard.

Description: Use the services of University Writing Services (UWS) before turning in the Legislation Exercise for additional points toward the Legislation Exercise. Your use of the UWS’s services will be verified by the instructor.

Extra Credit Opportunity #3

Weight: 5 Points (toward total course grade)

Due: Week 15 11:59 p.m. on **Friday 5/1**

Submission Format: Written assignment - online through Blackboard.

Description: Provide the questions/prompts below and your responses to them:

1. What is the most important thing you feel you learned in this class (this could be anything no matter how small you think it is in the big picture)?
2. What would you tell future students about how to succeed in this class?
3. What did you like best about the class and what did you like the least?
4. What did you think of the textbook(s) (if applicable)?
5. Any other comments you would like to share with the instructor.

The instructor appreciates your hard work and feedback in the course.

END OF SYLLABUS