

Instructor: Dana McWay, JD, RHIA
Office: Verhaegen Hall, Room 105
Email: dana.mcway@slu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Maysa Daoud
Office: Verhaegen Hall, Room 117
Email: maysa.daoud@slu.edu
Phone: (314) 977-2840
Office Hours: Thursday 2:00-3:00, Friday 11:00-12:00, By Appointment

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: civil procedure, torts, contracts, property, trusts and estates, corporations, family law, and criminal law and procedure.

Course Objectives: At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the three branches of government in general.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and processes of the American legal system.
3. 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. Demonstrate an understanding of state and federal court structures
5. Demonstrate an understanding of alternative dispute resolution options.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of content area in the following areas of law: civil procedure, torts, contracts, property, trusts and estates, corporations, family law, and criminal law and procedure.

Required Course Materials:

Currier, Katherine A. & Eimermann, Thomas E., *The Study of Law: A Critical Thinking Approach*, 4th. edition ISBN: 978-1-4548-5222-3
Additional materials will be placed on electronic reserve (e-reserve), accessible through Pius Library, or on BlackBoard.

Blackboard: Students are expected to know the components of Blackboard, voice-over PowerPoint presentations, and e-mailing. Students will find the syllabus, assignments, learning modules, course content, announcements, grades, and discussions on Blackboard. All assignments are to be submitted through Blackboard.

Graded Assignments

Up to 1000 points can be earned for this class. Point breakdown is as follows:

Class Attendance & Class Participation	15
Course Assignments:	
In-class Brief	25
Visit Summary	20
Speaker Summaries	30
Quizzes	30
Legislation Exercise	30
Lab Assignments 1-3	300
Mid-Term Exam	220
Final Exam	330

GRADING SCALE:

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

Class Participation & Course Assignments

The category refers to completion of in-class briefs (25 points), court/law school visit summary (20 points), speaker summaries (2 at 15 points each), quizzes (2 quizzes at 15 points each), legislation exercise (30 points), and attendance and participation in the classroom setting (15 points). You will register your attendance by signing the class list and no student may sign the list for another student.

Lab Assignments 1-3

The category refers to three assignments that are completed as part of the lab component of the class. Instruction on and grading of these assignments is provided by Maysa Daoud, Graduate Teaching Assistant. **A separate syllabus is issued for the lab assignments.**

Mid-Term Exam

The category refers to an exam that covers all materials presented in the course up to the date of the mid-term exam.

Final Exam

The category refers to an exam that covers all materials presented in the course – a cumulative and comprehensive exam.

Written Assignments

Written assignments are in the form of visit and speaker summaries, a legislation exercise, and extra credit offerings. With the exception of lab assignments, all other assignments should be 1-2 pages in length, typed, 12 point font, and space and 1/2 or double spaced. If citations are required as part of the assignment, employ APA citation format. **Wikipedia citations will not be accepted.**

Extra Credit

Extra credit is offered periodically across the semester. 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).

Course Guidelines and Requirements:

- 1) Students are expected to read assigned materials prior to class and be prepared for thoughtful discussion and participation. Please notify the professor if you are absent in order to make arrangements for missed coursework.

- 2) Professionalism is expected throughout the course. Professionalism is determined by active participation in class discussions and respect for others in the class. As a matter of professional and community civility and respect, computers and other technology should be used in class for purposes that are educationally relevant to the class and only in a manner that is not distracting to fellow students. Please resist the temptation to check your e-mail or conduct non-class related business during class time.

- 3) All assignments are considered mandatory and scores from these assignments contribute to the overall grade in the course. Assignments are due on the date specified. Late work will NOT be accepted without approval from the professor. Approved late submissions will have a penalty assessed on the grading scale. It is required that assignments are submitted electronically. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that electronically submitted coursework is received and can be opened by the professor.

Academic Integrity

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:http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%206-26-15.pdf.

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has adopted its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites. 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 faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program, or the Dean/Director of the College, School or Center in which your program is housed.

All work must be your own. All assignments and exams are to be completed independently – copying of a whole or partial assignment/exam answer is unacceptable and will result in a zero for the assignment or test. Any academic dishonesty may result in failure of this course and will be reported to the Program Director, the Chair of the Department and/or Dean. Any instances of plagiarism will be treated as academic dishonesty. Plagiarized documents include, but are not limited to, copying or using another assignment as your own, copying or using materials found in a book or internet site without attribution, using the ideas and words of others without appropriate quotations and citations, or having another individual do, rewrite, or reword your assignment without crediting that individual.

Learning Strategies

Students will be introduced to a number of metacognitive learning strategies over the semester. These learning strategies are explained in Blackboard under the title Learning Strategies on the Home Page. Two important strategies are Preview and Review. Preview refers to looking at each chapter's section headings, boldfaced print, italicized words, and any charts and graphs and then identifying any questions you may have that you want the reading to answer. Next, attend class and listen for discussion that covers what you previewed and ask any of your prepared questions that have not already been answered as part of lecture. Review refers to reading the chapter after attending class lecture on that chapter.

Student Support Services

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. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Disability Services 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 Disability Services

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:

- <http://www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversity/sexual-misconduct-policy>
- www.slu.edu/here4you

Writing Services

I encourage you to take advantage of the writing services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with any kind of writing project, multimedia project, and/or oral presentation. They offer one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, call (314) 977-3484 or visit <http://www.slu.edu/writingservices.xml>.

Class Schedule

This course is designed to cover the entire semester. Each week a new topic is addressed within the schedule listed below.

Week One – August 28, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Study of Law, Legal Analysis, Practice of Law
Class Activities: Become familiar with Syllabus & Blackboard usage
Introduce Class Case Briefs
Choose Court Visit Dates
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 1 Introduction to Study of Law
Preview Ch. 2 Functions & Sources of Law

Week One – August 30, 2018 (Thursday)

Lecture Topics: Study, Functions & Sources of Law
Class Activities: Choose Class Case Briefs
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 3 Classification of Law
Review Ch. 1 & 2

Week Two – September 4, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Classifications of Law,
Class Activities: Choose Class Case Briefs
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 4 The Court System and Role of Judges
Bring laptop to class for quiz
Choose topic for Legislation Exercise
Review Ch. 3

Week Two– September 6, 2018 (Thursday)

Lecture Topics: Court System & Role of Judges
Class Activities: In-class Quiz
Submit topic for Legislation Exercise via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.
Submit 1st Extra Credit via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 5 Civil Litigation & Its Alternatives
Review Ch. 4

Week Three – September 11, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Civil Litigation & Its Alternatives
Class Activities: Class Brief Presentation
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 6 Constitutional Law
View On-line tutorial on Constitutional Law
Prepare Case Brief Presentations
Review Ch. 5

Week Three – September 13, 2018 (Thursday)

Lecture Topics: Constitutional Law
Class Activities: Class Brief Presentations
Assignment for Next Class: Prepare Legislation Exercise
Review Ch. 6

Week Four – September 18 & 20, 2018 (Tuesday & Thursday)

Lab Sessions

Week Five - September 25, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lab Session
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 7 Torts
Prepare Case Brief Presentations
Submit Legislation Exercise via Blackboard by 11:50 p.m.

Week Five – September 27, 2018 (Thursday)

Lecture Topics: Tort Law
Class Activities: Class Brief Presentations
Assignment for Next Class: Review Ch. 7

Week Six - October 2, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Torts
Class Activities: Torts Exercise
Class Brief Presentations
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 9 Property & Estate Law
Prepare Case Brief Presentations
Review Ch. 7

Week Seven– October 9, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Property & Estate Laws
Class Activities: Class Brief Presentations
Assignment for Next Class: Prepare for mid-term exam
Review Ch. 9

Week Eight – October 16, 2018 (Tuesday)

Mid Term Exam

Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 8 Contracts

Week Nine – October 23, 2018

No face-to-face class - Fall Break

Week Nine– October 25, 2018 (Thursday)

Lecture Topics: Contract Law
Class Activities: Contract Law Exercise
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 12 Criminal Law
Review Ch. 8

Week Ten – October 30 & November 1, 2018 (Tuesday & Thursday)

Lab Sessions

Assignment for Next Class: View on-line tutorial on Criminal Law – refer to Blackboard
Submit 3rd Extra Credit (paper on Jesuit Ideals) via Blackboard by
11:59 p.m.- due Oct 30

Week Eleven - November 6, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Criminal Law
Class Activities: Guest Speaker
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 11 Family Law
Review Ch. 12

Week Twelve – November 13, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Family Law
Class Activities: Guest Speaker
Class Brief Presentation
Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 13 Criminal Procedure
Submit 1st Guest Speaker Summary via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.
Prepare Case Brief Presentations
Review Ch. 11

Week Thirteen – November 20, 2018 (Tuesday)

No Class

Assignments for Next Class: Preview Ch. 10 Business Associations
View on-line tutorial on Criminal Procedure
Submit 2nd Guest Speaker Summary via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.
Review Ch. 13

Week Fourteen – November 27, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Business Associations
 Class Activities: Class Brief Presentations
 Assignment for Next Class: Preview Ch. 14 Ethical Dilemmas
 Bring laptop to class for quiz on Nov. 29
 Review Ch. 10

Week Fifteen – December 4, 2018 (Tuesday)

Lecture Topics: Ethical Dilemmas
 Class Activities: In-Class Quiz
 Assignment for Next Class: Prepare for Final Exam
 Review Ch. 14

Week Sixteen– December 11, 2018 (Tuesday)

No Class – Fall Study Day

Week Seventeen – December 13, 2018 (Thursday)

Final Exam

Semester at a Glance

August 2018

27	28	29	30	31
	Lecture Class Choose Court Visit Date		Lecture Class Select Case Brief	

September 2018

	4 Lecture Class	5	6 In-class quiz Lecture Class Submit topic: Leg. Exercise 1 st Extra Credit due	7
10	11 Lecture Class	12	13 Lecture Class	14
17	18 Lecture Class	19 Court Visit	20 Lab Session	21
24	25 Lab Session 2 nd Extra Credit due Submit Leg. Exercise	26 Court Visit Summary due	27 Lecture Class Court Visit	28

October 2018

1	2 Lecture Class Makeup Court Visit	3	4 Lab Session Court Visit Summary due	5
8	9 Lecture Class Court Visit Summary due	10	11 Lab Session	12
15	16 Mid-term Exam	17	18 No Class	19
22 Fall Break	23 Fall Break	24	25 Lecture Class	26
29	30 Lab Session 3 rd Extra Credit due	31		

November 2018

			1 Lab Session	2
5	6 Lecture Class Guest Speaker	7	8 Lab Session	9
12	13 Lecture Class Guest Speaker 1 st Guest Speaker Summary Due	14	15 Lab Session	16
19	20 No Class 2 nd Guest Speaker Summary Due	21	22 Thanksgiving	23
26	27 Lecture Class	28	29 Lab Session	20

December 2018

3	4 In-class quiz Lecture Class	5	6 Lab Session	7
10	11 Study Day	12	13 Final Exam	14

Comment:

This syllabus attempts to provide a comprehensive explanation of the course. The syllabus is subject to change depending on course and instructor circumstances.