

**Empire College School of Law**

**SYLLABUS**

- Course Name:** Introduction to Law
- Course Number:** L116AUG
- Total Hours/Units:** 15 Hours - 1 Unit
- Professor:** David Carr, ph # 415/703-5538
- Prerequisites:** None
- Semester:** August 30 - November 1, 2011
- Days & Time:** Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. **(Note: First class meeting is at 6:00 pm)**
- Required Text:** *An Introduction to the Anglo-American Legal System*  
Bodenheimer et al. (Fourth Edition) West Publishing  
ISBN 0-314-15087-0
- Course Description:** An introduction to the structure and process of the U.S. legal system with an emphasis on basic legal terminology, principles, and effective statutory and case law analysis.
- Class Attendance:** Class attendance is of particular importance in learning the language and concepts of the law; students should plan to attend every class. **Students must attend a minimum of 80% (12 hours; i.e., 8 of 10 classes)** of the class sessions during each semester. Roll will be taken at each class.
- Class Preparation:** Come to class prepared to present assigned cases and discuss the assigned material as noted in the Class Assignments.
- Grading:** Pass/Fail, based upon a 2-hour final examination.

### CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 08/30/11:** Assignment: Text pp. 1-4 and 230-252. Introduction & Case of the Speluncean Explorers. **NOTE: Assuming textbook availability, this assignment is due on the first day of class.**
- 09/6/11:** Assignment: Text pp. 5-24. Law and the Process of Classification. Brief and be prepared to present the cases and consider - to the degree necessary to discuss - the Notes & Questions following each case. (NOTE: Unless otherwise directed, read and brief all cases in the assigned readings for Classes 2-9 and be prepared to discuss the Notes & Questions following each. It is not necessary that you read those cases cited in the text cases nor need you delve into the materials listed under "Further References.")
- 09/13/11:** Assignment: Text pp. 26-78. Common Law, Equity, and the Development of the Anglo-American Court System. (pp. 26-51 are primarily history sufficient to establish a context of our contemporary legal system and process and may be read less closely; but still brief and be prepared to present the cases.)
- 09/20/11:** Assignment: Statutes, Case Law, and Judicial Precedent. Text pp. 79-118
- 09/27/11:** Assignment: The *Ratio Decidendi* of a Case. Text pp. 119-140
- 10/4/11:** Assignment: Logic and Policy in Legal Reasoning. Text pp. 141-165
- 10/11/11:** Assignment: Fundamentals of Statutory Interpretation. Text pp. 166-189 (Stop at sec. E)
- 10/18/11:** Assignment: Contemporary Approaches to Statutory Construction; Legislative History and Other Extrinsic Aids; Contemporary Approaches to Statutory Interpretation in the United States, Substantive Canons of Statutory Construction: Criminal Law & Civil Law; and Reasoning from Statutes by Analogy; Text pp. 189-224
- 10/25/11:** Review and exam preparation. Bring your questions to class on the material we have covered to date.
- 11/1/11:** Final Examination **at 6:00pm.**