

SYLLABUS

Course Number:	L116NOV
Course Name:	Introduction to Law
Total Hours/Units:	15 Hours - 1 Unit
Professor:	Thomas J. Jordan, Esq. jjordan@jordanwinery.com
Prerequisites:	None
Semester:	November, 2010
Days & Time:	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Required Text:	<i>An Introduction to the Anglo-American Legal System</i> E. Bodenheimer et al. (Fourth Edition) West Publishing ISBN 0-314-15087-0
Course Description:	An introduction to the structure and working of the U.S. legal system with an emphasis on understanding basic legal terminology, principles, and effective statutory and case law analysis.
Class Attendance:	Regular and punctual attendance is <u>essential</u> for the successful completion of law school. Students should plan to attend every class. Students must attend a minimum of 80% (12 hours, or 8 of 10 classes) of the class sessions during each semester. Roll will be taken at each class. Class attendance is of particular importance in learning the language and concepts of the law.
Class Preparation:	Please come to class prepared to present assigned cases and discuss the assigned material. A portion of the final grade is determined by class participation.
Grading:	Pass/Fail, based upon a 2 hour final examination (85%) and class participation (15%).

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 11/9/10** Assignment: Text pp. 1-4 and 230-252. Introduction & Case of the Speluncean Explorers. **NOTE: This assignment is due on the first day of class.**
- 11/11/10** 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 to read those cases cited in the text cases nor to delve into the materials listed under "Further References.")
- 11/16/10** 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.)
- 11/18/10** Assignment: Statutes, Case Law, and Judicial Precedent.
Text pp. 79-118
- 11/23/10** Assignment: The *Ratio Decidendi* of a Case. Text pp. 119-140
- 11/30/10** Assignment: Logic and Policy in Legal Reasoning.
Text pp. 141-165
- 12/2/10** Assignment: Fundamentals of Statutory Interpretation.
Text pp. 166-189 (Stop at sec. E)
- 12/9/10*** 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
- Our Make up For Thanksgiving will be on 12/9. Class will be 3 hours on 3/9 and cover Exam Review at 7:30.**
- TBD:** Final Examination at 6:00pm.