

Introduction to Law
Prof. Belle
Syllabus and Class Assignments

Course Number:	L116MAR
Course Name:	Introduction to Law
Professor:	Louise J. Belle, Esq. ljbelleslettres@gmail.com
Prerequisites:	None
Semester:	March 2011 - May 2011
Class Time:	Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Required Text:	Bodenheimer, et al., <i>An Introduction to the Anglo-American Legal System</i> (4 th ed.) West Publishing, ISBN 0-314-15087-0.
Course Description:	An introduction to the U.S. legal system, emphasizing analysis of statutory and case law.
Class Attendance:	Regular and punctual attendance is essential for the successful completion of law school. Attendance is particularly important in learning the language and concepts of the law. Students should plan to attend every class session. Students must attend a minimum of 80% (12 hours) of the class sessions during the semester. Roll will be taken at each class.
Class preparation:	Brief all cases (including <i>The Case of the Speluncean Explorers</i> for the first day of class) unless otherwise directed. Read all “Notes and Questions” and “Problems” as well as the cases. Be prepared to present the cases and discuss the assigned material for each class. A portion of the final grade is determined by class participation.
Grading:	Pass/fail, based on a 2-hour final examination (85%) and class participation (15%). Both the quantity and quality of participation will be considered.

Introduction to Law
Prof. Belle
Syllabus and Class Assignments

- 3/22/11 Introduction, pp. 1-4.
Appendix: *The Case of the Speluncean Explorers*, pp. 230-252.
Note: This assignment is due on the first day of class.
- 3/29/11 Chapter I: Law and the Process of Classification, pp. 5-25.
- 4/05/11 Chapter II: Common Law, Equity, and the Development of the Anglo-American Court System, pp. 26-51.
- 4/12/11 Chapter II (cont.): Common Law, Equity, and the Development of the Anglo-American Court System, pp. 51-78.
- 4/19/11 Chapter III: Statutes, Case Law, and Judicial Precedent, pp. 79-118.
- 4/26/11 Chapter IV: The *Ratio Decidendi* of a Case, pp. 119-140.
- 5/03/11 Chapter V: Logic and Policy in Legal Reasoning, pp. 141-165.
- 5/10/11 Chapter VI: Fundamentals of Statutory Interpretation, pp. 166-189.
- 5/17/11 Chapter VI (cont.): Fundamentals of Statutory Interpretation, pp. 189-229.
- 5/24/11 Final examination, 6:00-8:00 p.m.