

Empire College School of Law

SYLLABUS

Course Name:	Introduction to Law
Course Number:	L116JAN
Total Hours/Units:	15 Hours - 1 Unit
Professor:	Keith Langan, Esq.; klangan@ffic.com
Prerequisites:	None
Semester:	January 2011
Days & Time:	Tuesdays, 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 <u>must</u> 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:	Come to class prepared to present assigned cases and discuss the assigned material as noted in the Class Assignments. A portion of your final grade will determined by your class participation.
Grading:	Pass/Fail, based upon a 2 hour final examination (85%) and class participation (15%).

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 01/11/11:** 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.**
- 01/18/11:** 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 to read those cases cited in the text cases nor to delve into the materials listed under "Further References.")
- 01/25/11:** 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.)
- 02/01/11:** Assignment: Statutes, Case Law, and Judicial Precedent. Text pp. 79-118
- 02/08/11:** Assignment: The *Ratio Decidendi* of a Case. Text pp. 119-140
- 02/15/11:** Assignment: Logic and Policy in Legal Reasoning. Text pp. 141-165
- 02/22/11:** Assignment: Fundamentals of Statutory Interpretation. Text pp. 166-189 (Stop at sec. E)
- 03/01/11:** 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
- 03/08/11:** Review and exam preparation. Be prepared to bring your questions to class on the material we have covered to date.
- 03/15/11:** Final Examination **at 6:00pm.**