

**Empire College School of Law**

**SYLLABUS**

<b>Course Name:</b>	<b>Introduction to Law</b>
<b>Course Number:</b>	L116JAN
<b>Total Hours/Units:</b>	15 Hours - 1 Unit
<b>Professor:</b>	Jennifer Hendrickson
<b>Contact Info:</b>	Contact info: to follow
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Semester:</b>	January 10, 2012 through March 13, 2012
<b>Days &amp; Time:</b>	Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
<b>Required Text:</b>	<i>An Introduction to the Anglo-American Legal System</i> Bodenheimer et al. (Fourth Edition) West Publishing ISBN 0-314-15087-0
<b>Course Description:</b>	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.
<b>Class Attendance:</b>	Class attendance is of particular importance in learning the language and concepts of the law; students should plan to attend every class. <b>Students <u>must</u> attend a minimum of 80% (12 hours; i.e., 8 of 10 classes)</b> of the class sessions during each semester. Roll will be taken at each class.
<b>Class Preparation:</b>	Come to class prepared to present assigned cases and discuss the assigned material as noted in the Class Assignments.
<b>Grading:</b>	Pass/Fail, based upon a 2-hour final examination.

### CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- 1/10/2012:** 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.**
- 1/17/2012:** 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.")
- 1/24/2012:** 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.)
- 1/31/2012:** Assignment: Statutes, Case Law, and Judicial Precedent. Text pp. 79-118
- 2/7/2012:** Assignment: The *Ratio Decidendi* of a Case. Text pp. 119-140
- 2/14/2012:** Assignment: Logic and Policy in Legal Reasoning. Text pp. 141-165
- 2/21/2012:** Assignment: Fundamentals of Statutory Interpretation. Text pp. 166-189 (Stop at sec. E)
- 2/28/2012:** 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
- 3/6/2012:** Review and exam preparation. Bring your questions to class on the material we have covered to date.
- 3/13/2012:** Final Examination **at 6:00pm.**