

Basic Course Information

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| Semester | FALL 2014 | Instructor Name | Jack W. STATON |
| Course Title & # | Family Law Legl 127 | Email | Jack.staton@imperial.edu |
| CRN # | 10279 | Webpage (optional) | |
| Room | 205 | Office | None |
| Class Dates | Aug 19 -Dec 9 | Office Hours | None |
| Class Days | Tuesday Nights | Office Phone # | Dept Phone 760 355 6280 |
| Class Times | 6:30 pm – 9:40 pm | Office contact if student will be out or emergency | Dept Secretary 760 355 6280 |
| Units | 3 Units | | |
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Course Description

This course covers elements of family law, including elements of marriage under the law, common law marriage, relationships that can exist when one party enters into an invalid marriage, ante nuptial agreements, dissolution of marriage, child-support rights, division of community property in community and non-community property states, and the uniform child custody jurisdiction act. (CSU)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Explain the elements of statutory marriage and common-law marriage. (ILO1, ILO2)
- Outline the steps to be followed and the documentation required in dissolution of marriage cases. (ILO1, ILO2)
- Explain the division of property in both community property states and non-community property states. (ILO1, ILO2)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the elements of marriage under the law [statutory marriage].
2. Explain the elements of a common law marriage.
3. Describe other relationships that can exist when one party enters into an invalid marriage.
4. Identify the rights of the parties in meretricious and putative relationships.
5. Discuss the prerequisites of ante nuptial agreements.
6. Describe the steps to be followed in dissolution of marriage [no fault divorce] cases.
7. List the documentation that is required in dissolution of marriage [trial] hearing.
8. Recognize the step-by-step procedures found in the civil code [family] law section] or code of procedure for endorsing alimony and child-support rights.
9. Explain the division of property in community property states [dissolution of marriage].
10. Explain the division of property in non-community property states [dissolution of marriage].
11. Recognize the uniform child custody jurisdiction act. [in process of being adopted].

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Statsky, *Family Law, The Essentials*, 3rd Edition, Cengage Learning
ISBN 13:978-1-285-42059-2

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

The instructor may use lecture, classroom discussion in which each student is expected to contribute, video presentations, classroom group work and group presentations, written assignments, and case studies.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Your grade will be calculated based on 4 tests or quizzes spaced over the semester as well as a final examination. All tests/quizzes are comprehensive. Pop-quizzes may be used. The dates of the tests depend on class progress and will be communicated to the class generally 2 weeks before the test, except when a pop-quiz is given. You may drop the lowest of your test/quiz grades (but not the final exam) unless the low grade is an F you receive for cheating. Consequently, **NO MAKE-UP TEST OR QUIZ WILL BE GIVEN**. You will also be assigned homework, which must be turned in to me by the beginning of the class period at which the assignment is due. Last assignments are not acceptable and will result in a ZERO for that assignment. Your ultimate grade will be calculated as follows:

THREE TESTS/QUIZZES = 20% each for **60%** of your total grade
HOME WORK and CLASS PARTICIPATION = **10%** of your total grade
FINAL EXAMINATION = **30%** of your total grade

Again, all tests/quizzes are comprehensive and will employ a multiple testing methods, including multiple choice questions, true and false questions, short essay questions, and fill-in-the blank questions.

Attendance

Required language

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. **Consider**: specifics for your class/program

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- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
 - Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
 - Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.
 - Students may not come and go from the classroom during class time. Come to class on time and be prepared to stay for the duration of the class. This is a once-a-week course. Thus, a single night is the equivalent of a week of class. If you leave early you cannot be truly counted as present for the week of class. Roll will be taken at the end of the class period.

Academic Honesty

Required Language

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to 'cite a source' correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Help – Discretionary Section and Language

- Learning Labs: There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Study Skills Center (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program.
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.
- Individualized help from the professor: If you are having any trouble understanding the course, or completing assignments, the professor is available to provide individualized assistance. Email him at jack.staton@imperial.edu.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313, if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Required Language: Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at:

http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

The class schedule is always tentative and depends on class progress.

| Date or Week | Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic | Pages/ Due Dates/Tests |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 08/19/21 | Syllabus & Introduction | |
| 08/26/14 | Chapter 1 | Pages 1-24 |
| 09/02/14 | Chapter 2 | Pages 25 -54 |
| 09/09/14 | Chapter 3 | Pages 55-95 |
| 09/16/14 | Comprehensive Test 1 & Chapter 4 | Pages 96-124 |
| 09/23/14 | Chapter 5 | Pages 125-147 |
| 09/30/14 | Chapter 5 | Pages 148-166 |
| 10/07/14 | Comprehensive Test 2 & Chapter 6 | Pages 167-190 |
| 10/14/14 | Chapter 6 | Pages 191-225 |
| 10/21/14 | Chapter 7 | Pages 226-264 |
| 10/28/14 | Chapter 8 & 9 | Pages 265-312 |
| 11/04/14 | Comprehensive Test 3 & Chapter 10 | Pages 313-340 |
| 10/11/14 | Veterans Day Holiday – No Class | |
| 11/18/14 | Chapters 11 & 12 | Pages 341-373 |
| 11/25/14 | Comprehensive Test 4 & Chapter 13 | Pages 374-399 |
| 12/02/14 | Chapters 14 & 15 and Course Review | Pages 416-428 |

DECEMBER 9, 2014 FINAL EXAMINATION
