

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit Graduate credit Professional credit

1. School/Division College of Arts & Sciences 2. Academic Subject Code POLS

3. Course Number Y211 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services) 4. Instructor C. Zalas

5. Course Title Introduction to Law

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional) _____
(Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Fall 2008

7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from _____ to _____

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes _____ No X

9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes _____ No X

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: ~~Course offers an introduction to legal reasoning, procedures, and materials. Includes an introduction to the qualitative~~

~~analysis of political data.~~ (IUPUI Bulletin) An introduction to law as an aspect of government and politics, and as a means of dealing with major social problems. Students will study legal reasoning, procedures and materials and may compare other nation's legal systems. The course usually includes a moot court or other forms of simulation

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from _____ to _____

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 0 or Variable from _____ to _____

13. Estimated enrollment: 25 of which 0 percent are expected to be graduate students.

14. Frequency of scheduling: annual Will this course be required for majors? Yes Paralegal Studies Certificate Students

15. Justification for new course: This course replaces SPEA V376. It is being replaced by a course number that matches the same course offered at IUPUI in its paralegal studies certificate program. Change is needed due to restructuring of SPEA. Course content reflects better 2007 level

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes

17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.

18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by:

Lanola Chen Date 4/16/08
Department Chairman/Division Director

Approved by:

[Signature] Date 5/8/08
Dean Assoc Dean CAS

Date _____
Dean of Graduate School (when required)

Date _____
Chancellor/Vice-President

Date _____
University Enrollment Services

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

MATCHING COURSE REQUEST

Check appropriate box: Undergraduate credit: xx Graduate credit:

1. School/Division: College of Arts & Sciences
2. Academic subject code: Pols
3. Course number: Y211
4. Instructor: C. Zalas
5. Course title: Introduction to Law

Recommended abbreviation (limit 32 characters):

6. First time this course is to be offered (semester/year): Fall 2008

7. Credit hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from to

8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? No

9. Is variable title approval being requested? No

10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication:

Course offers an introduction to legal reasoning, procedures, and materials. Includes an introduction to the qualitative analysis of political data. (IUPUI Bulletin)

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from to

12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: at 0 or Variable from to

13. Estimated enrollment: 25 of which 100 percent to be expected from undergraduate students

14. Frequency of Scheduling: annual Will this course be required for majors? Paralegal Studies Certificate students - yes

15. Justification for new course: This course replaces SPEA V376. It is being replaced by a course number that matches the same course offered at IUPUI in its paralegal studies certificate program. Change is needed due to restructuring of SPEA. Course content reflects better the 200-level.

16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes

17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor, texts, etc.

18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, explain which courses and why.

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses.

[signatures]

Thomas, Susan Elaine

From: Chen, Linda
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 10:51 AM
To: Thomas, Susan Elaine
Subject: RE: Course requests for political science

Hi Susan: I must be reading from another catalogue or I attached the wrong copy. Yes, please attach the existing course description for Y211 so as to expedite matters. Also, I hope you received the new course syllabi for Y234 and Y214 which has the appropriate contact hours for the 2 credit courses.

Thanks,

Linda C.

From: Thomas, Susan Elaine
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 9:17 AM
To: Chen, Linda
Subject: RE: Course requests for political science

Linda,

I am working to finalize all the requests to take over to Deb and find that the course description for Y211 is unchanged from what was submitted. I have to attach the existing course description from the bulletin. Do you want me to cross out what is on the form and write in the one from the IUPUI bulletin?

Thank you,

Susan

From: Chen, Linda
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 2:33 PM
To: Thomas, Susan Elaine
Subject: RE: Course requests for political science

Hi Susan: Attached are the changes requested for Y514 (Murasko name taken off) and for Y211 (new course description that fits with IUPUI).

As to the new course requests for Y234 and Y214, I am waiting for Diana Hess to reply. Will get those to you sometime in the future.

Thanks for your hard work. I'm sorry these forms and syllabi have been so messy. Working under pressure with a gazillion other things I had to do, I was not thorough enough.

Linda C.

From: Thomas, Susan Elaine
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 4:54 PM
To: Chen, Linda
Subject: RE: Course requests for political science

Hi Linda,

Department of POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Paralegal Courses

Y211: Introduction to Law (3 cr) An introduction to law as an aspect of government and politics, and as a means for dealing with major social problems. Students will study legal reasoning, procedures, and materials, and may compare other nations' legal systems. The course usually includes a moot court or other forms of simulation.

Y221: Legal Research and Writing for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) Development of research and communication skills special to the area of law. Includes methods of organizing and conducting legal research, resources available for legal research, presentation of findings in memoranda and briefs, other forms of legal writing.

Y222: Litigation for Paralegal Studies I (3 cr) This course examines the processing of a case from initial client interviews to final disposition. It includes drafting of complaints, answers, counterclaims, interrogatories and other discovery tools, gathering of evidence, and motions and judgments. Both Indiana and federal rules of evidence are emphasized.

Y223: Litigation for Paralegal Studies II (3 cr) This elective course in advanced litigation focuses primarily on aspects of trial preparation not covered in depth in Y222. Topics may include jury selection, witness preparation and examination, preparation of evidence for use at trial, jury instructions, post-judgment relief.

Y224: Property Law for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) This course examines the legal rules governing various types of property and the ways in which human beings relate to property. Types of property include real and personal; relationships to property include both ownership and interest. Emphasis is placed on forms and procedures used in Indiana.

Y225: Contract Law for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) This course includes the basic elements and principles involved in the drafting, interpretation, and enforcement of contracts, including current trends in contract law in Indiana. Includes Uniform Commercial Code.

Y226: Tort Law for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) This course reviews current law and recent trends in negligence and liability. Different dimensions of liability. Different dimensions of liability are covered. Emphasis on conduct of a tort case from initiation through relief, and on the responsibilities of legal assistants therein.

Y227: Criminal Law for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) This in-depth review of criminal law in Indiana covers the Indiana Criminal Code - infractions, misdemeanors, and felonies. The course emphasizes real situations that legal professionals encounter throughout the process.

Y228: Family Law for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) This course examines legal rules and procedures concerning domestic relations. Topics covered include separation and divorce, adoption, child custody and support, and other areas of domestic relations in Indiana.

Y229: Estate Law for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) This course reviews legal rules and procedures concerning the transfer of property upon the owner's demise. Provides a practical approach to the language, procedures, forms, interpretation, and administration of wills and trusts. Emphasis on current trends in Indiana and federal law.

Y230: Bankruptcy Law for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) Examines the legal rules relating to bankruptcy.

Y231: Advanced Legal Writing for Paralegal Studies (3 cr) Builds on Y221 by giving students the opportunity for advanced study of research and communication skills needed for paralegals.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND

PARALEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Pols Y211

Introduction to Law

Fall, 2008

6:00-8:40 P.M.

Room: NS0039

Tuesdays

Instructor:

Clint A. Zalas, attorney at law
Lee, Groves & Zalas, Professional Association
Attorneys and Counsellors
205 W. Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 502
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 232-5923
Email: Clintanthonyzalas@yahoo.com

Text:

Introduction to Law, Fourth Edition
Beth Walston-Dunham
West Publishing (2004)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course fulfills the requirements of the Paralegal Studies Program in the Department of Continuing Education as well as some of the degree requirements in the Public Affairs program. Thus, the course will not focus exclusively on matters of interest to future paralegals or to students in the Public Affairs program.

- I. To introduce students to general principles of law and legal terminology;
- II. To introduce students to general concepts of substantive and procedural law;
- III. To provide an introduction to analytical legal thinking;
- IV. To introduce substantive principles relating to jurisdiction, contracts, commercial law, property, family law, torts, criminal law, and other areas.
- V. To ask the question, "What should the law be?"

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Class attendance is essential to success in the course; the material presented in the text is complemented by the materials presented and discussed in class. Class discussion and activities will presume that you are current on reading and assignments. Like an exercise program, you will get out of this class what you put into it. Learning about the law requires *active thinking*. Just as you cannot gain the benefits of exercise by merely reading about them, you cannot gain the benefits of an education merely by reading the materials and hoping to regurgitate them back on quizzes and examinations.

You should read all textbook assignments prior to each corresponding class session. There may occasionally be additional reading materials distributed during the course.

GRADES

Although this is the least important part of the course, this is the part you will probably be most concerned about.

The grading process is partly objective and-unavoidably-partly subjective. The student's ability to define and use certain terminology can be measured objectively, but the measure of a student's ability to understand substantive and procedural matters is usually subjective. All assignments, quizzes, and examinations will be graded by the instructor. As the student, you have the right to raise a question about a grade you received with the instructor. You should also understand, however, that changes in grading decisions are rare.

There will be regular quizzes to help you assess your "grasp" of the materials. The midterm and final examinations will delve deeper into your ability to understand and apply the law to a set of given facts.

The following will be the basis for the grades in this course:

Writing Assignment 1	15%
Writing Assignment 2	15%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%

Following is the grading scale. As you can see, you will need to work a bit harder to achieve the letter grade you might hope to earn.

A	97-100
A-	92-96
B	87-91
B-	86-82
C	81-77
C-	76-72
D	71-67
D-	66-62
F	61-0

Grades will not be rounded. If you score a 96.9, that is an A-, not an A. Please note there are no opportunities for extra credit, so please do not ask. Students have varying amounts of time available for this course, and it is unfair to reward those students who have the time to do extra work and effectively penalize those who do not. The following is the expected subject matter for each class date. As you might expect, there may be some variation as the course progresses.

	DATES	TOPIC AND TEXT ASSIGNMENT
1.	Aug. 28	Introduction to course, discussion of syllabus, and administrative matters; structure of the legal system; the Courts. TEXT: pp. 1-67
2.	Sept. 4	Legislation; Executive Branch the legal profession TEXT: pp.69-128
3.	Sept. 11	Ethics, Substantive and Procedural Law TEXT: pp. 137-200
4.	Sept. 18	Guest Presenter: Professionalism and the Paralegal
5.	Sept 25	Jurisdiction Text: pp. 207-234

6. Oct. 2 Contracts
TEXT: pp. 239-269
Writing Assignment I Due
7. October 9 Property
TEXT: pp. 275-319
8. October 16 MIDTERM EXAM
9. October 23 Torts
TEXT: pp. 325-384
10. October 30 Business Law
TEXT: pp 389-427
11. November 6 Wills, Estates and Probate
TEXT: pp. 433-455
12. November 13 Criminal Law
TEXT: pp 461-491
Writing Assignments II Due
13. November 20 Criminal Procedure
TEXT: pp. 497-537
14. November 27 Family Law
TEXT: pp. 541-593
15. December 4 Constitution Law-No Reading Assignment
16. December 11 Final

BRIEFING A CASE

Throughout the semester, you will read court cases (decisions) as part of the reading assignments. Although they will not be collected or graded, you should prepare case briefs for each case. A case brief contains the following information:

- Parties:** Who is the plaintiff? Who is the defendant?
- Facts:** What are the facts that led the parties to the judicial system?
- Procedural History:** How did the parties get to the court of appeals or highest appellate court? In other words, what happened in the trial court—who won and who lost, and on what basis?
- Issue/Question:** What issue(s) is(are) presented to the appellate court, or, stated differently, what questions does the appellate court have to decide?
- Ruling/Holding:** What is the appellate court's decision? More to the point, what is the law that is established by the case, not merely who wins and loses?
- Reasoning:** What is the basis or reasoning for the appellate court's decision?
- Judgment:** What happens to the decision of the lower court?
- Right or Wrong?** You should be prepared to discuss whether you think the court was right or wrong in reaching its conclusion, and why.

Case briefs will not only help you analyze a court decision, they will help you be prepared to answer questions about the case when you are called on.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT I

For this writing assignment, you need to find a decision from the court of appeals or supreme court of the state in which you reside. Indiana decisions can be found at <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/opinions/>. Michigan decisions can be found at <http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/mi/mica.html>.

Find a case that is of interest to you, and write a memo describing the case. Your memo should include:

- ! The names and roles (e.g., plumber, home owner, employer, etc.) of the parties.
- ! The facts leading the parties to the trial court.
- ! What happened in the trial court (who won, and why?)
- ! What issue(s) is(are) presented to the appellate court.
- ! What the appellate court decided and why.
- ! Whether the appellate court's decision is correct in your opinion, and WHY!

Unlike your case briefs, this writing assignment should present your memo in paragraphs and sentences, or prose, form. Grammar and spelling will be graded severely!

WRITING ASSIGNMENT II

For this writing assignment, you will need to find a statute from the state in which you live. Indiana statutes can be found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code>. Michigan statutes can be found at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>. (Look for the chapter index to Michigan laws).

Pick a statute that is of interest to you, and write a memo describing the statute. In your memo, include the following information:

- The citation for the statute
- What the statute says (in English, not legalese).
- What area of the law the statute deals with (e.g., contract, criminal law, civil procedure, etc.)

Again, use complete sentences and paragraphs. Grammar and spelling count!