

MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>LEG 143</u> Course Number		<u>FAMILY LAW</u> Course Title
<u>3</u> Credits	<u>3</u> Class Hours	<u>0</u> Laboratory Hours

Text: Title: Family Law
 Author: Mark Graber
 Publisher: New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education
 Edition: 2002

Catalog Description:

Survey of procedures and pleadings in domestic relations including the preparation of divorce complaints, answers, counterclaims, motions, disclosure statements, and property settlement agreements. Includes issues of custody, visitation rights, child support and maintenance, adoptions and name changes. Spring offering.

Prerequisite: None

Corequisite: None

Eric M. Perkins
Course Coordinator

Instructor's Name: _____
 Class Time/Room #: _____
 Office Hours: _____
 Office #/Phone #: _____
 E-mail: _____

Aug. 2007

Method of Evaluation:

The course will integrate the theoretical and practical aspects of family law practice with an emphasis on those issues and tasks that are commonly performed by legal assistants. There will be a midterm and a final exam as well as individual and group projects.

Grading:

Exam scores and project scores will be based on the traditional grading scale as follows:

- A – 90 – 100%
- B - 80 – 90%
- C - 70 – 80%
- D - 60 – 69%
- F - Below 60%

Instructional Methods:

The teaching methods employed is a combination of lecture and discussion, supplemented by various exercises, both in and out of class. When appropriate, guest speakers or panel discussions will be utilized.

Academic Integrity Statements:

“A student who a.) knowingly represents work of others as his/her own, b.) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in the execution of any academic work, or c.) gives fraudulent assistance to another student is guilty of cheating. Violators will be penalized.” (Student Handbook)

Classroom Conduct Statement:

It is the student’s responsibility to attend all of their classes. If they miss a class meeting for any reason, students are responsible for all content that is covered, for announcements made in their absence, and for acquiring any materials that may have been distributed in class. It is expected that students be on time for all their classes. If students walk into a class after it has begun, it is expected that they choose a seat close to where they entered the room so that they do not disrupt the class meeting.

Students are expected to follow ordinary rules of courtesy during the class sessions. Engaging in private, side conversations during class time is distracting to other students and to the instructor. Leaving class early without having informed the instructor prior to class is not appropriate. Unless there is an emergency, leaving class and returning while the class is in session is not acceptable behavior. Disruptive behavior of any type, including sharpening pencils during class while someone is speaking, is not appropriate.

The college welcomes all students into an environment that creates a sense of community of pride and respect; we are all here to work cooperatively and to learn together.

General Course Objectives:

The Student will be able to:

Understand the New Jersey Court System as it relates to family law matters and will understand the divorce and annulment process, child custody equitable distribution, discovery case information statements, motion, practice, post-judgment motions, as well as adoptions, name changes and domestic violence.

Specific Course Objectives -- UNIT I

The student will be able to:

Understand the jurisdiction of the family law part of the chancery division of the Superior Court.

Understand the retainer agreement and conduct of a client interview.

Understand the grounds for divorce and annulments in New Jersey and draft a divorce complaint.

Understand how service of process is accomplished as well as the appearance and answer to the complaint in contested and uncontested divorce actions.

Understand the issue of child support and alimony.

Understand the process of equitable distribution and various other divorce issues such as experts in divorce cases, counsel fees, continuation of medical insurance after divorce, and the role of the early settlement panel.

Be able to prepare various pleadings and documents associated with topics covered in Unit I.

Understand the many ethical issues related to Unit I family law matters.

Specific Course Objectives -- UNIT II

Understand the purpose and scope of discovery in divorce actions.

Understand the role of the case information statement as well as a motion practice and post – judgments motions.

Understand the scope of other chancery matters including adoptions and name changes.

Understand the issue of and remedies for domestic violence actions.

Be able to prepare various pleadings or documents associated with the topics covered in Unit II.

Understand the many ethical issues related to Unit II family law matters.