

UCO Spring 2018: Introduction to Law Syllabus

Political Science 2203/CRN 27170

Dr. Tripodi

Tues & Thurs 8am – 9:15am Room: LAR-140

Getting Started: Please ensure at first opportunity you have our text book and have logged in to our class web page on D2L (Desire to Learn). If you experience issues logging in, please contact IT support at (405) 974-2255 or support@uco.edu

Contact Info: Always feel free to contact me via D2L email at Jtripodi1@d2lmail.uco.edu You may also call on weekdays at (405) 974-5353.

- Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday (walk-in) from 9:20am – 10:50am, and 2:40pm - 4pm. Monday and Wednesday only by appointment.
- Office Location: The Political Science Department is located on the first floor, NE corner, of the Liberal Arts Bldg. My office is in the Political Science Office, room 102A.
 - Always feel free to speak with me before and after our class

Rule of Law in our Class. Yes, democracies have rule of law, and our class is governed by rules. The intent of these rules is to maximize learning/participation, and to minimize disruption

- Arrive to class on time. Class starts when I begin to take attendance or anytime I begin to lecture, whichever is sooner. If you arrive to class after we've started, and without a reasonable explanation for being late, you'll be marked absent.
- Come to class prepared. Each "academic detachment" will result in 10-points deducted from your final grade.
- Cease all chatter and/or side conversations when class starts, and ensure that your cellphones are off. If I have to ask you more than once (throughout the entire semester) to stop the chatter and/or turn off your cellphone, I'll reduce your final grade by 10-points for each disruption.
- Sleeping (eyes closed or laying your head on your desk). It's disrespectful and disruptive to class. I will give you one (1) warning before I ask you to leave class, mark you absent, and deduct 10- points from your final grade.
- I invite your opinion, and those of your classmates. I welcome the class to have counter viewpoints and discourse, but will not tolerate students verbally attacking

a fellow student's intelligence or views. Raise your hand to ask a question or make a comment.

- If in my judgment you're rude and/or disruptive to the class environment, I will give you one warning, and if that method does not suffice, I will ask that you leave class, request campus security to escort you out, and I reserve the right to have you submitted for UCO disciplinary proceedings.
- **No cell phones used while in class. Cell Phones:** All cell phones shall be off or in silent mode. **NO RINGING** cell phones in class. **NO TEXT MESSAGING** in class. **Laptops: NOT ALLOWED! No recording of lectures.**

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the study of U.S. Law. If you're interested in law and/or the possibility of entering law school, this class will give you a very good foundation to law and the experience of law school. We will review the historical development of American Law, its constitutional basis, the judicial/court system, and major relevant subject areas.

Course Prerequisites. This is a 2000 level class. Prior first - year college experience is highly recommended. English proficiency is required.

Course Overview. This is a survey course of the American law and legal system. The primary method of learning will come from class lectures and the Socratic method (questions and discussion to stimulate critical thinking). This class will give you a very good foundation for law school. Class will cover the foundation of US Law. Each student will present two case briefings from our text book. The cases cover topics such as; Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure, Torts, Criminal Procedures, Criminal Law, Property Law, and Contract Law.

Course Objectives:

- Students will understand the philosophical bases and sources of American law
- Students will understand the structure of the American legal system
- Students will understand how the law and legal system function through traditional litigation
- Students will learn law via the Socratic Method.

Transformative Learning Goals: This course directly incorporates the following Transformative Learning Goals:

Discipline Knowledge – by analyzing of the structures and processes of the judicial process.

Leadership – by examining the decisions made by the Supreme Court and other players in the judicial process.

Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities – by analyzing the current knowledge in the field and synthesizing it in the form of a written term paper incorporating the students ideas for research.

Service Learning and Civic Engagement Activities – by acquiring the knowledge to become an informed voter, and the motivation to become an active participant in the political community

Required Text Books and Assigned Readings: The text book required for our class is, "Introduction to the Study of U.S. Law", by Robert H. Klonoff, 1st Edition, West Academic Publishing. ISBN: 13-9781628101676

- I may post additional reading material on our class site in D2L. Students are responsible for the contents of the books, as well as the contents of all on-line lecture notes, outside materials, and posted class discussions. If absent, you're still responsible for reading the material.

Course Format and Requirements: As an undergraduate law class, this will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and case briefings (each student responsible for two case briefings) via the Socratic Method. The text book and online materials are to prepare you for the lectures. You're responsible for completing the assigned readings prior to each class. Bring to class your text book, paper for taking notes, and any assigned readings posted on D2L. There will be four exams, and two case briefings per student.

English Proficiency Requirement: For students whom English is a second language, and you're here on a Student Visa, as per U.S. Immigration Laws, you're required to be proficient in English. *** You must be able to read, analyze, and write in English.

Class Lectures: Take notes! If its' on the board or discussed in class, then you're responsible for knowing the material, and will most likely be tested on the material. Do your assigned readings to give you background knowledge and preparation for class. You will have a much better grasp of the material covered in class if you read the material prior to class, and much easier to take notes when you're prepared for class.

Attendance: This is an 8am class. Make whatever changes to your lifestyle that ensures you get to class by 8am. If you drive to campus, ensure that you have a reliable vehicle/ride, and that you leave for campus with enough time to account for morning traffic and finding a parking space. I will take attendance at the beginning of every class. If you're not present (unless a reasonable exception) before I start class discussion, please enter class without disturbance, but you'll be marked absent. If you're absent, you're

responsible for material covered during your absences. No make-up exams from an unexcused absence. Six (6) unexcused absences will result in a full grade reduction. Eight (8) unexcused absences will result in your failure of the class. If you leave class early without coordinating with me, you'll be marked absent.

Case Briefs. VERY IMPORTANT! Each of you will be assigned two cases from our textbook. Each case is worth a **maximum of 200-points (100-points class brief, and 100-points typed brief)**. **Half of your class grade is based upon your case briefs.** Once everyone in class has had an opportunity for their first case, I'll then assign your second case. Treat your case assignment as if it were a term paper. You're expected to be the expert on your case. If it's in your case, you need to know it. If there's a word or phrase in your case that you don't know, find out what it means before you brief. You'll teach our class about the Relevant Facts of the case, what's the Legal Issues, what was the Courts Holding on the issues, and why did the Court come up with its Analysis. Throughout your briefing, you'll be exposed to Socratic questioning. These briefings will teach you about law, how to think as a lawyer, and what to expect from the judges.

On the morning you're briefing, you must turn into me a typed briefing of your case. Must be given to me **before you brief**, or I'll not allow you to brief, and you'll receive a zero. The briefs must be typed, double-spaced, 12 pitch font, printed on one side only, paragraph format (no line bullets), 1" margins on all sides, and no less than 30-full typed lines of substance. The briefs must contain the following, and in this order: Facts, Issues, Holding, and Analysis. If you're absent the day of your assigned briefing without a valid reason, you'll receive a zero for the briefing.

Exams. Four exams, each worth maximum of 100-points. Exams will consist of true/false, short answer, multiple choice, and matching.

Missed Assignments: NO MAKE-UPS! If your absent from class or come in late without a valid reason, you will be given a zero (0) for the assignment you missed. Medical reasons, you will need to have a signed certified letter (with address & phone number) from the attending physician that you could not attend class. If you have a known UCO conflict (sports, school related function.....), you must notify me before your absence and make arrangements to complete your assignment.

Participation: You're responsible to read every assigned case, and be prepared in class that I may call on you to discuss a case. I reserve the right to add additional points to your final course grade for exceptional participation. Your participation points will be determined by the quality (not just quantity) and substantive value of your participation.

Non-Participation: I reserve the right to deduct points from your final grade if you're obviously not prepared for class.

Methods of Evaluation: Maximum total of 800 points:

- Two Case Briefings, each maximum of 200 points (400 max pts)
- Four Exams, each maximum total of 100 points (400 max pts)

Grading Scale: A=800-720 B=719-640 C=639-560 D=559-480 F=479-0

(Final grades will be based on a strict application of the above grading scale.)

Questions about Grading. Questions concerning exam and paper grades should be discussed during my office hours or pursuant to a scheduled appointment—not during class.

Privacy Act: Because of recent court actions around the U.S., I will strictly adhere to the Privacy Act. As most students are adults, there should be no reason or occasion to discuss any information regarding a student with a parent, guardian, legal counsel, or another student unless UCO first receives, in writing from the student, a release that would allow the instructor to freely discuss information pertaining to the student with a designated person. A student can identify a friend or an acquaintance to be their spokesperson. This designation must also be in writing and signed by the student. No information will be given out over the phone regarding a student's grades or course progress regardless of who is calling.

ADA Statement Regarding Special Accommodations. The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must contact Disability Support Services (DSS) in room 305 of the Nigh University Center or by telephone at (405) 974-2516. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible. Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at (405) 974-3377 or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D.

Academic Integrity Statement

The Political Science Department of the University of Central Oklahoma is asking all students taking political science courses to read the following Academic Integrity Statement. Our purpose in doing so is to ensure that all our students are aware of what is improper academic behavior. As members of the academic community, students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The Political Science Department expects that its students will conduct themselves honestly. This means, above all, that students submit for credit work that is the product of their own efforts. Principles of academic integrity require that all dishonest work be rejected as a basis for academic credit, and that students refrain from any and all forms of dishonorable conduct in the course of their academic work.

The examples and definitions given below are intended to clarify the standards by which academic honesty and integrity is judged. The list is merely illustrative of some of the more common infractions. It is not intended to be exhaustive. Any question a student has about what constitutes inappropriate behavior should be directed towards their instructor. The rule of thumb to follow is: If in doubt, ASK!

Link for Student Information Sheet and Syllabus Attachment 2017-2018

<http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/studentinfosheet.pdf>

Reading Responsibility and Class Schedule:

Week 1 (Jan 8th)	Course Introduction. Chapter 1
Week 2 (Jan 15th)	Chapter 2 Constitutional Law Texas v Johnson, Brown v Entertainment Merchants, Hustler Mag v Falwell, Morse v Frederick, Employment Div Dept Human Resources of Oregon v Smith
Week 3 (Jan 22nd)	Chapter 2. Constitutional Law Town of Greece NY v Galloway, Brown v Board of Education, Obergefell v Hodges, US v Virginia, Roe v Wade
Week 4 (Jan 29th)	Chapter 2. Constitutional Law US v Nixon, US v Lopez
Week 5 (Feb 5th)	Chapter 3. Civil Procedures Goldberg v Kelly, Walden v Fiore, Hertz Corp. v Friend, In re Volkswagen of America, Cine Forty-Second St Theater v Allied Artists Pictures
Week 6 (Feb 12th)	Chapter 3. Civil Procedures Celotex Corp. v Catrett, eBay Inc v MercExchange, Grynberg v Ivanhoe Energy, Upjohn Co v US, Wal-Mart v Dukes
Week 7 (Feb 19th)	Chapter 3. Civil Procedures Pavon v Swift Transportation Co.
Week 8 (Feb 26th)	Chapter 5. Torts Mount Vernon Fire Insurance v Oxnard Hospitality, Sharp v Cleveland Clinic, Quaker Petroleum Chemicals v Waldrop, Romaine v Killinger, Connolley v Omaha Public Power District
Week 9 (Mar 5th)	Chapter 5. Torts Westminster Presbyterian Church v Yonghong Cheng, Podias v Mairs, Roddey v Wal-Mart Stores East,
Week 10 (Mar 12th)	Chapter 5. Torts Lucero v Holbrook, Vick v Pankey & Young v State, Wiley v Sanders, Hinman v Westinghouse Electric
Week 11 (Mar 19th)	Spring Break

Week 12 (Mar 26th)	Chapter 7. Criminal Procedures Terry v Ohio, Riley v California, Gideon v Wainwright, Miranda v Arizona
Week 13 (Apr 2nd)	Chapter 7. Criminal Procedures Duncan v Louisiana, Brady v Maryland, Roper v Simmons
Week 14 (Apr 9th)	Chapter 8. Criminal Law In re Winship, Owens v State, Carosi v State, Garnett v State
Week 15 (Apr 16th)	Chapter 8. Criminal Law Dlugash v New York, Girouard v State, State v Reeves
Week 16 (Apr 23rd)	Chapter 8. Criminal Law People v Goetz
Week 17 (Apr 30th)	Last Exam

Prof. Tripodi reserves the right to change the schedule as necessary. Students should check online for any changes in the schedule. (Prepared by Prof. Tripodi – 1/5/2018)