



PL 18 – Family Law - Section #4652

Dr. Nicholas, Adjunct Professor

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**Text: Family Law for the Paralegal: Concepts and Applications, 2nd Edition
ISBN: 978-0-13-510948-9 by Mary Wilson (Publisher: Pearson/PrenticeHall)**

SYLLABUS ~ Fall 2015

Week 1 (9/2)	Introduction to Family Law; Overview and Requirements
Week 2 (9/9)	Ch. 2 Cohabitation and Premarital Agreements
Week 3 (9/16)	Ch. 3 Marriage and Emerging Alternatives
Week 4 (9/23)	Ch. 4 Annulment
Week 5 (9/30)	Ch. 5 The Divorce Process
Week 6 (10/7)	Ch. 6 Discovery and Financial Statements
Week 7 (10/14)	Ch. 7 Parenthood
Week 8 (10/21)	Ch. 8 Child Custody
Week 9 (10/28)	Ch. 9 Child Support
Week 10 (11/4)	Ch. 10 Spousal Support
Week 11 (11/11)	Ch. 11 Property Division
Week 12(11/18)	Ch. 12 Separation Agreements
Week 13 (11/25)	Ch. 13 Family Violence
Week 14 (12/02)	Ch. 14 Adoption
Week 15 (12/09)	FINAL PROJECT DUE

Week 16 (12/17) Review and return of Projects; Wrap-Up

Each week you are responsible for turning in the Answers to the Review Questions found at the end of each chapter or there may be a requirement from the **DEVELOPING YOUR PARALEGAL SKILLS** section at the end of each chapter. These include Focus on the Job, Focus on Ethics, Focus on Case Law, Focus on State Law and Procedure, Focus on Technology and Portfolio Products.

Grade Grid

Your final grade will be calculated based on the following points:

End of Chapter Assignments (14 Chapters)	50 points each =	700 points
Final Project or Exam	100 points	100
Practical Assignments (3x 50 points each)	150 points	150
Class presentation *** (100 points)	= 100 points	<u>100</u>
TOTAL		1050

A= 900 + points

B=800-899 points

C= 700-799 points

D= 600-699 points

F= 0-599 points

***** There will be at least one group project where 2 students will make a PowerPoint presentation to the class covering a chapter in the textbook. Each week a chapter will be assigned to 2 different students and they will explain that chapter to the class the following week.**

PL 18 - Family Law – Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Nicholas

Telephone: TBD; Class meets Wednesdays 6:45-10pm

E-mail: Profvcnicholas@yahoo.com

Office & Classroom: GC 310; West LA College

Office Hours: Wednesdays 6:30-6:45pm

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of a family law practice. It addresses fundamental topics including marriage, divorce, annulment, custody and support along with emerging areas such as legal recognition of non-marital families and family violence. Attention is given to coverage of legal principles, ethical issues, research, interviewing, drafting and other essential practice skills.

Course Objectives:

It is expected that the student will achieve the following basic objectives as a result of actively participating in this course. At the conclusion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. describe the role of a paralegal in a family law practice;
2. understand and apply terminology applicable to the field of family law;
3. draft basic documents/pleadings commonly used in a family law practice;
4. access information essential to critical thinking and the development of informed opinions with respect to family law related topics by using a variety of legal research tools both traditional and computer-based;
5. identify ethical issues and biases encountered in a family law practice and develop strategies to address them.

Textbook:

Family Law for the Paralegal: Concepts and Applications, Second Edition 2013, Mary E. Wilson, Esq. Pearson Education, Inc. publishing as Prentice Hall. ISBN 978-0-13-510948-9.

Instructional Methodology:

A variety of instructional methods will be used including but not limited to lecture, in-class exercises, in-class and online discussions, online video presentations, research and writing assignments, PowerPoint presentations, quizzes, final project or exam, and a field trip to Family Court.

Course Requirements:

Weekly assignments may include quizzes, exams, discussions (of paralegal applications), and end of chapter activities (including review questions, drafts of pleadings, motions, memoranda, briefs, etc.).

Student Evaluation:

Students are evaluated on the following: *quizzes and examinations*, written homework assignments, online (or in-class) discussions and exercises, and classroom presentations.

Grading Scale:

(See attachment)

Instructor Policies: No eating, no food or drinks allowed in class. A Late assignment will lose 10 points for each week it is late. Missed exams cannot be made up. Plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. You do not need to email me to say that you will be late or will not be in class.

Course Schedule (16 Week Semester)

Week	Topic	Assignment
1	Introduction to a Family Law Practice	Chapter 1 Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for Week 2
2	Cohabitation and Premarital Agreements	Chapter 2 Review questions, if required Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for Week 3
3	Marriage and Emerging Alternatives	Chapter 3 Review questions, if required Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for Week 4
4	Annulment	Chapter 4 Review questions Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for Week 5
5	The Divorce Process	Chapter 5 Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for Week 6
6	Discovery and Financial Statements	Chapter 6 Review questions Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for Week 7
7	Parenthood	Chapter 7 Review questions, Selected discussions Assignments for Week 8 Mid-term exam or Practical Assignment #1 due
8	Child Custody	Chapter 8 Review questions Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for Week 9

9	Child Support	Chapter 9 Review questions Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for Week 10 Practical Assignment 2 due;
10	Spousal Support	Chapter 10 Review questions, Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for week 11
11	Property Division	Chapter 11 Review questions Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for week 12
12	Separation Agreements	Chapter 12 Review questions, Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for week 13
13	Family Violence	Chapter 13 Review questions, Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity Assignments for week 14
14	Adoption	Chapter 14 Review questions, Selected discussions Selected Focus Activity;
		Practical Assignment #3
15	Final Exam or Project Presentations	
16	Return of Projects, Practical Assignments and Closing Arguments	

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