

Law II

Course Outline

Syllabus

Law II

Two Semesters, 1/2 credit each semester

Law II will begin with a review of the important concepts presented in Unit I in Law I- Introduction to Law and the Legal System. This review will last approximately 1-2 weeks.

I. Introduction to Law and the Legal System

The following topics should be covered in the review:

A. Definition of Law

- Law and Values
- Human Rights
- Kinds of Laws

B. The Court System

- Trial Courts
- Appeals Courts
- Federal and State Court Systems
- The U.S. Supreme Court

C. Lawyers

- Working with your Attorney * Lawyers' Code of Professional Responsibility

II. Rights in the Community Introduction to Constitutional Law

- Amendments to the Constitution
- Basic Principles of Constitutional Law

A. Freedom of Speech

- The Importance of Freedom of Speech
- Obscenity
- Defamation
- Commercial Speech
- Fighting Words, Offensive Speakers, and Hostile Audiences
- Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions
- Symbolic Speech
- Vague and Overinclusive Laws

B. Freedom of the Press

- Prohibiting Publication
- Denying the Press Access to Information
- Requiring the Press to Disclose Information

C. Expression in Special Places

- The First Amendment in Public Schools
- The First Amendment in Prisons and the Military

D. Freedom of Religion

- The Establishment Clause
- The Free Exercise Clause

E. Due Process

- Substantive Due Process
- Procedural Due Process

F. The Right to Privacy

- Historical Development of the Right to Privacy
- Privacy in the Home and at School
- Information Gathering and Privacy
- Reproductive Rights and Privacy

G. Discrimination

- Definition of Discrimination
- The Rational Basis Test
- The Strict Scrutiny Test
- The Substantial Relationship Test
- Limits of Equal Protection
- Discrimination Based on Race
- Discrimination Based on National Origin and Citizenship Status
- Discrimination Based on Gender
- Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation
- Discrimination Based on Age
- Discrimination Based on Disability
- Housing Discrimination
- State and Local Laws Against Discrimination

H. Rights and Responsibilities in the Workplace

- Looking for a Job
- Conditions on the Job
- Termination of Employment

III. Family Law

A. Law and the American Family

- Law from Birth to Death
- What is a Family?

B. Marriage

- Legal Aspects of Marriage
- Common-Law Marriage
- Financial Responsibilities
- Property Ownership
- Decisions in a Marriage
- Spousal Abuse
- Legal Issues for Single People in Nontraditional Relationships

C. Parents and Children

- Responsibilities Between Parents and Children
- Child Abuse and Neglect

D. Foster Care and Adoption

- Foster Care
- Adoption

E. Separation, Divorce, and Custody

- Marriage Problems
- Separation and Divorce
- Child Custody
- Alimony, Property Division, and Child Support
- Stepparents

F. Government Support for Families and Individuals

- Economic Benefits for Individuals and Families
- Health Benefits
- Educational Benefits

IV. Consumer and Housing Law Contracts

- Elements of a Contract
- Minors and Contracts
- Written and Oral Contracts
- Illegal Contracts

A. Warranties

- Express Warranties
- Implied Warranties
- Disclaimers

B. Credit and Other Financial Services

- Basic Information About Bank Accounts
- Introduction to Credit
- Paying for College
- The Cost of Credit
- What Lenders Want to Know Before Extending Credit
- What to Do if You Are Denied Credit
- Default and Collection Practices

C. Deceptive Sales Practices

- Door-to-Door and Telephone Sales
- Referral Sales
- Consumers and Advertising
- Bait and Switch
- Mail-Order Sales
- Internet Commerce

D. Becoming a Smart Consumer

- Influences on Consumers
- Consumer Protection

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- Protecting your Rights as a Consumer
 - Direct Action by Consumers
 - Taking your Case to Court
- E. Cars and the Consumer**
- Buying a car
- F. Housing and the Consumer**
- Leases
 - Landlord – Tenant Negotiations
 - Homelessness: Is There Right to Housing?