Courses

PLA 2013  Survey of American Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Study of American law, focusing on why there are laws, as well as who makes and enforces the laws. Covers what is commonly known as "everyday law," that is, how law affects us in our daily lives. Credit may not be earned in both PLA 2057 and PLA 2013. Satisfies UWF Breadth requirement in Social Sciences.

PLA 3020  Law and Society
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Exploration of how the legal system interacts with social issues, such as the death penalty, domestic violence, slavery, abortion, and lifestyle choice. Credit may not be earned in both PLA 3691 and PLA 3020.

PLA 3021  Law and Film: Fact or Fiction
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Films may capture not only facts, but also emotions that occur in the pursuit of justice. Films chosen illustrate the complexities of legal and justice issues, the involvement of various stakeholders in the system and the merit or lack of merit of character's decision-making. Highlights the practice of law, stakeholders, judicial processes, as well as interactions with society and politics.

PLA 3103  Legal Research and Writing
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Prerequisite: (PLA 2013) AND (PLA 3020 OR PLA 3703 OR PLA 4263 OR PLA 4885)
Introduces the student to the sources, tools and techniques of legal research and writing including, but not limited to, primary and secondary sources covering judicial, legislative and executive branches.

PLA 3240  Alternative Dispute Resolution
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Introduces students to different alternative dispute resolutions (ADR) methods as a means of peacefully communicating with another person regarding a conflict and working together to find a solution in an appropriate manner. Eight basic methods of ADR, and several hybrids, will be explained in detail. Presents ADR against the backdrop of traditional litigation, which offers a more formal, and generally more costly, method of resolving disputes. Asks students to evaluate disputes and disputants and to select the most appropriate method for resolving a matter.

PLA 3429  Contracts and Business Entities
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Overview of contract law, and law related to business entities such as corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietorships.

PLA 3471  Employment Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Designed for students interested in the subject of employment discrimination from many approaches: as a practitioner in the legal field, as an employer, as an advisor to employers, as an employee, or as an advisor to employees. The focus will be on the basic laws of employment discrimination, the means and methods of seeking the protections of those laws, and the means and methods of employers assuring compliance with the laws.

PLA 3583  Cyber Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Legal aspects of the law related to the Internet, including intellectual property rights, online jurisdictional issues, privacy and the first amendment in an online world, domain name rights, and e-commerce.

PLA 3613  Property Law and Transactions
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Covers contracts for the sale of land, forms, or real estate ownership, steps involved in a real estate transaction, drafting of leases, purchases, and sales agreements, drafting of mortgages and notes, drafting of deeds, preparing and executing a complete real estate closing and preparing a title search and real estate abstract.

PLA 3703  The Legal System and Ethics
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Applications of legal studies. Students will explore options in legal studies, professional development, and legal ethics. Credit may not be received in both PLA 3703 and PLA 3700.

PLA 3806  Family Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Law of family relations including marriage, divorce, support, property division, custody, paternity, adoption, and annulment. Credit may not be earned in PLA 3806 and either PLA 3800.

PLA 3905  Directed Study
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)

PLA 3948  Service Learning Field Study II
1-3 sh (may be repeated for up to 4 sh of credit)
A cooperative effort between the UWF Legal Studies Program, the UWF Center for Learning Through Volunteer Efforts (CLOVE), and a public or private law-related office. Allows students the opportunity to focus on various learning objectives in a potential career field. Students work under the overall supervision of a licensed attorney or other legal professional at the placement site. Permission is required.

PLA 4155  Legal Advocacy
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Prerequisite: PLA 3103
Emphasis is on improving legal writing ability through the use of practical writing assignments, including case briefs, legal correspondence, legal memoranda, and trial briefs. Meets Gordon Rule Writing Requirement.

PLA 4204  Civil Procedure
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Civil litigation in the Florida and Federal courts. Covers substantive civil law, Florida and Federal rules of civil procedure and related matters from initial interview through pre-trial preparation including drafting of pleadings and preparing discovery.
PLA 4225  Trial Practice
3 sh (may be repeated for up to 6 sh of credit)
Prerequisite: PLA 4204*
A case through the trial process from opening statements through
verdict.

PLA 4263  Evidence
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Rules of evidence, including relevancy, hearsay, competency of
witnesses and burdens of proof. The Federal Rules of Evidence are
emphasized.

PLA 4277  Tort Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
In-depth study of the fundamental principles of negligence, intentional
torts, strict liability, product liability, and vicarious liability. Credit may
not be received in both PLA 4277 and PLA 4273.

PLA 4306  Criminal Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Examination of the major substantive crimes, including homicide,
burglary, arson, offenses against the person, and offenses against
property. The concepts of criminal responsibility, parties to crime,
causation, and special legal defenses are also studied. Credit may not
be received in both PLA 4306 and PLA 4304.

PLA 4309  Criminal Procedure
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
The study of criminal procedure is a fascinating one which involves an
examination of the power of the government to enforce the criminal law
versus the right of individuals to be free from government intrusions,
as guaranteed by the Constitution. Will help students develop critical
analysis skills by examining the constitutional framework for the
enforcement of criminal law. After examining the constitutional
provisions that effect and affect criminal procedure, we will then
examine these principles in action by focusing on police practices
including searches, seizures, interrogations, identification procedures,
and arrests. Finally we will study the criminal court process from the
charging decision through the appeals process.

PLA 4554  Environmental Law and Jurisprudence
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
The evolution of both American and international environmental law
is explored through a review of the basic, existing environmental
laws and regulations, with a jurisprudential/philosophical look at
the underlying issues and principles of environmental law, using an
interdisciplinary approach.

PLA 4607  Wills, Estates, and Trusts
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Covers the need for estate planning, drafting and execution of basic
wills, the laws of intestate succession, the purposes of trusts, formal
and informal probate administration and the tax consequences of wills
and trusts. Credit may not be received in both PLA 4607 and PLA
4601.

PLA 4843  Immigration Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

PLA 4885  Constitutional Law for the Legal Professional
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Seeks an integration of the study of the Constitution with the
pragmatics of the practice of law for the paralegal. Introduces the basic
concepts of the Constitution in the light of how Constitutional issues
arise in the modern practice of law and how to prepare to meet these
arguments. Covers Supreme Court jurisdiction, how to read Supreme
Court cases, separation of powers, Federalism, Commerce Clause,
Due Process cases, First Amendment, Privacy, and Equal Production.
Will be focusing on issues confronted in modern courts and law office.
Credit may not be received in both PLA 4885 and PLA 4880.

PLA 4905  Directed Study
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)

PLA 4933  Special Topics in Legal Studies
3 sh (may be repeated for up to 12 sh of credit)
The study of special issues in legal studies. Subject matter will vary
depending upon the issue(s) selected for study (e.g., philosophy of
law).

PLA 4941  Legal Studies Internship
1-3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)
Prerequisite: PLA 3103 AND PLA 3703 AND PLA 4204 AND PLA 4263
Individual field experience in law-related offices including private
attorneys, public agencies, and alternative dispute resolution firms.
Graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis only. The student intern
works under the overall supervision of a licensed attorney at the
internship placement site. Permission is required.

PLA 5905  Directed Study
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)
* This course may be taken prior to or during the same term.