

PLA: Paralegal/Legal Assistant/Legal Administration Courses

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. This course surveys the main areas of procedural and substantive law and provides an overview of the practice of law. Meets General Education requirement in Social Sciences. Meets General Education requirement in Social Sciences.

PLA 3020 Law and Society
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Exploration of the evolution of laws in the American legal system related to complex social issues. Exploration of how the structure of the American legal system responds to diverse and dynamic social structures. Examination of how individual differences affect perceptions of justice and the role of the justice system in American society.

PLA 3021 Law and Film: Fact or Fiction
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Films chosen illustrate the realities of the legal system, the concept of justice, the involvement of various stakeholders in the system and the merit or lack of merit of character's decision-making. Films highlight 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)

Legal Research and Writing 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. Legal Research and Writing is designed to introduce skills needed in order to become proficient in legal research.

PLA 3240 Alternative Dispute Resolution
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Introduction to different alternative dispute resolution (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.

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 law 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 of the course will be on the basic laws of employment discrimination, employee rights, and 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)

Examines 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 will be explored.

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)

Students will explore ethics as it relates to attorney/paralegal conduct in legal systems in the United States.

PLA 3806 Family Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

The law of family relations (a.k.a. domestic relations) including marriage, divorce, support, property division and annulment will be covered in depth using Florida law as a basis. The collateral topics of adoption, paternity and child abuse/neglect will also be addressed briefly.

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

PLA 3940 Service Learning
3-6 sh (may be repeated for up to 6 sh of credit)

A cooperative effort between the UWF Legal Studies Program and a public, government or non-profit law office. Allows students the opportunity to focus on various learning objectives in a potential career field. The Field Study/Service Learning student will work under the overall supervision of a practicing attorney consistent with R. Regulating Fla. Bar 4-5.3 regarding supervision of non-lawyer assistants. Permission of faculty is required.

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 persuasive advocacy and legal writing ability through the use of both practical writing assignments and oral advocacy, including case briefs, legal correspondence, legal memoranda, and trial briefs. Meets Gordon Rule Writing Requirement. 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 not be repeated for 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.

PLA 4306 Criminal Law
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

This course covers the criminal law, with a particular focus on the core elements of a crime, types of crimes against persons and property, and criminal defenses.

PLA 4309 Criminal Procedure
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

The study of criminal procedure examines the power of the government to enforce the criminal law versus the right of individuals to be free from government intrusion as guaranteed by the Constitution. This course explores the legal framework for the enforcement of criminal law and the variety of roles that are played throughout the 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)

This course will provide an overview of the law related to wills, estates, and trusts. Various sources of law will be examined, in particular, statutes, case law, and uniform laws.

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)

The study of the U.S. Constitution and the major Supreme Court cases interpreting it, focusing on the current status of the law. 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 Protection. 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
1-6 sh (may be repeated for up to 6 sh of credit)

Prerequisite: PLA 3103 AND PLA 3703 AND PLA 4204 AND PLA 4263

The Legal Studies Internship is a cooperative effort between the Legal Studies Program at UWF and a public or private law-related office. The purpose is to give students the opportunity to apply their education to actual work situations. The student intern works under the overall supervision of a licensed attorney.

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.