PLA: Paralegal/Legal Assistant/Legal Administration Courses

Courses

PLA 2013  Survey of American Law
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and 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.

PLA 3020  Law and Society
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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 3106  Legal Research and Writing
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and 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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and 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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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 3613  Property Law and Transactions
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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 3703  The Legal System and Ethics
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and 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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)
PLA 3940   Service Learning
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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.

PLA 4204   Civil Procedure
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and 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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and 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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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 4885   Constitutional Law for the Legal Professional
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
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 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
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)
PLA 4941  Legal Studies Internship  
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law  
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  
College of Ed and Prof Studies, Department of Administration and Law  
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)  
* This course may be taken prior to or during the same term.