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**TULANE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES**

**Family Law**

(Updated May 2007)

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**COURSE SYLLABUS for: PARA-405-81**

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INSTRUCTOR: Joseph W. Browning

LOCATION: Elmwood Campus,

MEETINGS:

OFFICE HOURS: After class or by appointment

PHONE: 504-228-7714

E-Mail : [jwbrowni@aol.com](mailto:jwbrowni@aol.com) or [Jbrownin@tulane.edu](mailto:Jbrownin@tulane.edu)

Textual material and handouts will be provided by the Instructor

Course Credit: 3 Credit hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Review of substantive law related to marriage, children, and property; client interviews; preparation of pleadings for dissolution, support and division of property; preparation of cases for trial; supervision of case progress; drafting of property settlements and tracing of assets; tax consequences of support and division of property; future issues in family law

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course is summary course for Louisiana Family Law. Students will produce a memo for the Instructor focusing on a specific topic. The paper is intended to foster further in depth study for the chosen area of Family Law and to give the student an opportunity to produce a legal memo for the use of the practicing attorney.

The course will provide an overview of numerous topics in the area of Family Law. The calendar will further list specific topic areas. The goal is to provide students with a broad general understanding of Family Law. A secondary objective is to introduce the student to sources where that law can be found and researched.

## **Competencies**

Students will be able to develop specific skills and produce documents for:

- A: Pre - nuptial agreements
- B: Rule for Custody
- C. A petition to establish Paternity and Child support
- D. Child support worksheets
- E. Immediate Income Assignments

Each student will prepare and practice in class to learn the skills necessary to produce these particular documents. These are particularly useful, and often used in every divorce that involves minor children.

### **INSTRUCTOR'S POLICIES:**

There will be no make-up tests or examination except for extreme personal reasons. I reserve the right to judge cases on an individual basis.

If a student has excessive absences (more than 3 unexcused), he/she will automatically be dropped from the class.

### **HONOR CODE:**

Students are expected to adhere to the principles of the honor code. All academic work must be the result of the student's own efforts, except when collaboration has been explicitly allowed. If a student is unsure how a particular assignment is affected by the honor code, it is his or her responsibility to consult the instructor. This applies not only to the student's own behavior but also to the behavior of others. You may view the entirety of Tulane's Honor Code at: <http://college.tulane.edu/honorcode.htm>

### **ETHICS & PROFESSIONALISM:**

Each paralegal who works in or with a law firm will need to learn basic responsibilities in these two areas. Practicing members of the law profession are required to have one hour annually of Continuing Legal Education which specifically covers these two topics.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

Lecture, case briefing and discussion, small group breakout sessions, written assignments, tests, scenarios presented for class discussion, in-class participation.

## **GRADING:**

Quiz 1	= 10%
Test 1	= 15%
Test 2	= 15%
Paper	= 10 %
Attendance	= 10%
Final Exam	= 40%

Grades are assigned based on a 10 point scale as follows:

A	93 +	A-	92 - 90		
B+	89 - 87	B	86 - 83	B-	82 - 80
C+	79 - 77	C	76 - 73	C-	72 - 70
D+	69 - 67	D	66 - 63	D-	62 - 60
F	59 -				

### **Course Outline:**

\*\*All Classes are three hours in length unless otherwise indicated\*\*

- Class 1:** Introduction and Constitutional Considerations
  
- Class 2:** Community & Separate Property  
Matrimonial Regimes  
Pre-Nuptial Contracts
  
- Class 3:** Quiz: Marriage  
Covenant Marriage & Judicial Separation  
Injunctions  
Protection Against Abuse
  
- Class 4:** Divorce  
Incidental Actions  
Use of family home  
Claim for contribution to educational expenses  
Alimony
  
- Class 5:** **Test**
  
- Class 6:** Assign Topic Papers (due day of Final Exam)  
Custody  
Visitation

- Class 7:** Child Support, Immediate Income Assignments  
Worksheets  
Liens  
Attachments  
Tax Intercepts, State & Federal
- Class 8:** Children born of the marriage  
DNA tests  
Evidence  
Depositions  
Interrogatories
- Class 9:** **Test**
- Class 10:** Emancipation  
Tutorship  
Selected Federal Laws
- Class 11:** Ethics, Professionalism, Interdiction
- Class 12:** Adoption  
Grandparent Visitation  
Criminal Laws affecting the family  
Name Change  
Misc. Topics
- Class 13:** Final Exam Review
- Class 14:** **FINAL EXAM**  
**Papers Due**