

<p style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Honors Program</p>

IDH 3931/Section 0098: Introduction to Law at Levin
Spring 2017

Class Meetings:	T 8 (3:00-3:30)
Location:	Holland 285A
Instructor:	Prof. Black
Office:	ARCH 450/ Holland 184A
Office Hours:	Holland 184A: T, 10:30-11:30, or by appointment ARCH 450: M/Th 9:30-10:30, or by appointment
E-mail:	jblack@ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Who gets rights? What is feminist legal theory, or critical race theory, and how do they work? What is property and how do you transfer it? Can you contract anything? What does it mean to be harmed, and then “made whole”? What are constitutions? This course is dedicated to exploring these questions by introducing students to legal investigations at the University of Florida’s Levin College of Law.

Spend spring 2017 meeting Levin Law faculty. Each week, listen to them talk about what they teach and study. This one credit course has no exam. Instead, it invites you to explore law in the classroom, to seek it out in the larger culture, and to blog about what you find. And, it challenges you to be an active audience member, to listen, to engage, to learn, and to ask questions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will gain a better appreciation of (at least) three main areas:

- What legal topics comprise the legal system?
- What is the role of lawyers in this system?
- What is the role of law in our society?

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are no required texts for this course. Every other week, you will be required to identify a short reading (like a newspaper article) that deals with the course topic. In addition, most presenters will ask you to read a short article, statute, or opinion before class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please note that you are only allowed **TWO** unexcused absences. Any additional unexcused absences will result in a dramatic grade reduction of one full letter.

COURSE POLICIES

Special Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center at University of Florida Dean of Students Office, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/getstarted.php>. The Dean of Students Office will review the case and, if appropriate, provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Attendance: Attendance is **MANDATORY**. Roll will (typically) be taken each class. Please notify me beforehand if you need to miss a class. You are expected to come to class on time (arriving before the class is scheduled to begin) and to stay until the end. Please let me know before class if you must leave early.

Participation: You are expected to come to class on time, prepared, and ready to participate. Your participation will contribute to the learning of your fellow classmates. A significant percentage of your grade will be determined by your participation.

Late Assignments: If you are unable to turn in an assignment on time, please contact me **BEFOREHAND** to discuss alternatives. Unfortunately, in this class late assignments will not be accepted.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Computer Use: Please be advised that laptops are **NOT** allowed in this class. Take notes on whatever you feel is interesting or useful, but do so only with pen and paper. Students can use electronic devices only with special permission. Students found to be using electronic devices during class time will be docked one whole letter grade. This policy is for your benefit, for the benefit of your fellow learners, and for my benefit.

Classroom Climate

Equitable participation in this class requires the use of inclusive language, methods, and materials. Students are expected to use inclusive language in written and oral work, and to respect viewpoints expressed by others. At the same time, students are encouraged to identify language, methods, and materials used in this course that do not contribute to an inclusive classroom climate.

Academic Integrity and the UF Honor Code

All students at the University of Florida are expected to adhere fully to University of Florida Student Honor Code, view at:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>. The Honor Code outlines the expectations for student conduct in regard to academic honesty. All students should review this policy. The policy places full responsibility on students to know and adhere to these standards for academic integrity. All examinations, quizzes, projects, and

assignments are subject to this policy. Maintaining strict academic integrity is a priority; all instructors will fully enforce the UF Honor Code in their classes.

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is described in the Undergraduate Catalog. It is the instructors' discretion as to what extenuating circumstances warrant adequate excuse for not completing required course work.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

This class meets once a week for 50 minutes. All students are required to attend regularly, participate enthusiastically, and read all required assignments carefully.

- Each week I invite half the class to seek out evidence of that week's topic in newspapers or magazines, and to record what they find on a course blog.
 - Each blog entry must identify the source and, in roughly 100 words, explain how it relates to that week's topic.
- In addition, each week all students must read the short assignment presented to them by the Law faculty. I will email this reading, or post it to the course's canvas page, several days before class.
- Finally, each week all students must submit a notecard containing the two question they have prepared at the beginning of class.

Attendance: Attendance and Participation	60%
Blog Posts:	30%
Questions:	10%

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Please be advised that the following schedule should not be construed as a guarantee that all of the topics will be covered. The instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule as he deems appropriate in his sole discretion.

[01/10] – Week 1: Introduction

[01/17] – Week 2: Overview—What is Law?

[01/24] – Week 3: *Torts*—Presenter: Professor Lidsky

[01/31] – Week 4: *Florida Constitution*—Presenter: Professor Mills

[02/07] – Week 5: Race and Law in American History—Presenter: Professor Dale

[02/14] – Week 6: Environmental Law—Presenter: Professor Flournoy

[02/21] – Week 7: *Constitutional*—Presenter: Professor Wolf

[02/28] – Week 8: *Human Rights Law*—Presenter: Professor Hernández-Truyol

[02/28] – Week 9: SPRING BREAK: 03/06-03/10

[03/14] – Week 10: Family Law—Presenter: Dean Rosenbury

[03/21] – Week 11: *Property Law*—Presenter: Professor Wright

[03/28] – Week 12: *Business Law*—Presenter: Professor Sokol

[04/04] – Week 13: Juvenile Justice—Presenter: Professor Steinberg

[04/11] – Week 14: *Criminal Law*—Presenter: Professor Stinneford

[04/18] – Week 15: Review and Recap