

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Introduction to Law @ Levin

IDH2930/Section 3125
Spring 2022

Class Meetings: W 8 (3:00-3:50)
Class Location: HOL180
Instructor: Joel Black
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, 12:15-1:00pm, Or by Appointment
E-mail: jblack@ufl.edu (please email with questions)

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 2022 meeting with and listening to Levin Law faculty 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 readings, and to report about what you find.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will gain a better appreciation of (at least) four main questions.

- Understand the major fields and topics into which law is organized
- Understand the role courts play in the legal system
- Understand the role law plays outside of the courts
- Understand the role of courts and law and the larger society
- Answer the question: Is law school right for me?

REQUIRED TEXTS

None. While there are no required texts for this course, faculty presenters will ask you to read a short article, statute, or opinion before each class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please note that you are only allowed **ONE** unexcused absence. Any additional unexcused absences will diminish your grade.

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.

PARTICIPATION: You are expected to come to class on time, prepared, and ready to participate.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Unfortunately, late assignments cannot 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>.

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. 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>.

ASSIGNMENTS

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

ATTENDANCE: 50%

- Attendance is **MANDATORY**. 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.

REPORTS: 50%

Each week I invite students to explain, in exactly 100 words, what point in the reading (assigned by the faculty member) best explains that week's topic, and why.

- These short pieces must be submitted on Canvas under "Assignments"
- They are due before the beginning of class. Unfortunately, late postings cannot be accepted and will be given a grade of zero. But because you must submit 10 of 11 reports, you can miss one week and not experience a reduction in your grade
- Each posting is worth up to five points
- ****Note:** On the occasion that I do not get a reading to you at least 24 hours before class starts, all students will receive the full 5 points.**

Attendance and Participation: 50%
Reports: 50%

TWO CLIMATE ISSUES

In Class

- 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.

On Zoom: While this class meets face-to-face, it is possible that we will need to meet by zoom at some point in the semester.

- Should we meet on zoom, I ask that you use the following rules of video **conferencing etiquette:**
 - Choose a stationary location (meaning you must Zoom in from a computer, not from your phone)
 - Choose a location where there are minimal disruptions (e.g. roommates talking and pets jumping on you)
 - Dress appropriately for video conferencing
 - I will mute you upon entry to the class, but it is your responsibility to be "present" for the class to be counted for attendance purposes. You must "show video" and yourself for the active portions of the class when we are not on breaks
 - Please turn off any cell phones and other electronic devices; and close any other computer programs, websites, and email so you can give your classmates and speakers your full attention.
- Do not Zoom in the same room as someone else in the class. Unfortunately, Zoom "parties" create horrible feedback noises.
- Zoom invitation are available on the course canvas page and are posted at the bottom of this syllabus. Please notify me immediate if your zoom link is not working.

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, if necessary.

[01/5] – Week 1: Class Does Not Meet!

[01/12] – Week 2: Introduction & Overview

[01/19] – Week 3: *Torts*—Presenter: Professor Nance

[01/26] – Week 4: *Criminal Law*—Presenter: Professor Wolking

[02/02] – Week 5: *Law Student Panel*

[02/09] – Week 6: *Constitutional*—Presenter: Professor McAlister

[02/16] – Week 7: *Property Law*—Presenter: Professor Wright

[02/23] – Week 8: *Social Justice and Lawyering*—Presenter: Professor Barry Blocker—

[03/02] – Week 9: *Family Law*—Presenter: Dean Rosenbury

[03/09] – Week 10: *SPRING BREAK*

[03/16] – Week 11: *Environmental Law*—Presenter: Blake Hudson

[03/23] – Week 12: *Immigration Law*—Professor Greene

[03/30] – Week 13: *Coastal and Oceans Law*—Professor Brett

[04/06] – Week 14: *Juvenile Justice*—Presenter: Professor Steinberg

[04/13] – Week 15: *Human Rights Law*—Professor Hernandez-Truyol—this session will begin at 3:30pm and conclude at 4:20pm.

[04/20] – Week 16: *Levin Admissions Office*—Mr. Christopher Bailey