COURSE INFORMATION FORM

**DISCIPLINE**
Paralegal Practice

**COURSE TITLE**
Family Law

**CR.HR** 3.0  **LECT HR** 3.0  **LAB HR** 0.0  **CLIN/INTERN HR** 0.0  **CLOCK HR** 0.0

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**
An introduction and overview of the legal rights, responsibilities and related issues in the area of domestic law, including marital, non-marital and parental family relationships.

**PREREQUISITES**
PARA 100

**EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE COURSE**
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify legal, ethical and malpractice issues for family law attorneys, including the role and limitations of family law in traditional marriage and other relationships.
2. Demonstrate how to assist both the attorney and client in preparation of the client’s domestic relations case.
3. Identify issues in premarital and cohabitation arrangements.
4. Describe the legal basis for both an annulment of a marriage and for dissolution of a marriage.
5. Identify issues in spousal support and property division; and develop a written separation agreement.
6. Identify the legal issues in court decisions with regard to child custody and child support awards.
7. Distinguish legal issues for children, including legal standing in society, illegitimacy, paternity and adoption.
8. Identify the effect of advancements in technology and science on family law issues such as legal status of embryos, posthumous conception and surrogacy contacts.

**GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES (ESO)**
Specify which general education outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course. Numbers in parentheses identify the Expected Student Outcomes linked to the specific General Education Outcome.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>(ESO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Listening and Speaking Skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Adapt communication methodology to differing values, beliefs and attitudes of audiences</td>
<td>(2,5,6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Writing Skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Gather information, evaluate its creditability, analyze and synthesize sources</td>
<td>(2,5,6,8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Critical Thinking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Sort and classify information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Distinguish among facts, feelings, judgments and inferences and prioritize the respective role of each within a given context</td>
<td>(3,4,5,6,7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The student will demonstrate:

1. Possession of a broad knowledge of substantive and procedural law
   a. Knowledge of family law issues involved in the pre marital, marital and dissolution phases
   b. Familiarity with spousal support, property division and child custody issues
2. An ability to communicate clearly and assist an attorney in preparation of a domestic relations case including creation of the file, drafting of a basic separation agreement and through to trial

CLASS-LEVEL ASSESSMENT MEASURES

Student accomplishment of expected student outcomes will be assessed using the following measures. (Identify which measures are used to assess which outcomes.)

1. Examinations (Midterm and Final) (1,3,4,5,6,7,8)
2. Oral participation in class (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8)
DISCIPLINE: Paralegal Practice

COURSE TITLE: Family Law

Individual instructors may order this outline as fits the needs of their individual courses. In addition, they may place more emphasis on some areas than on others. What is assured is that this particular list is covered in the course. Other topics may be added to a course as the instructor sees fit, and as time and interest allow. An *asterisk can be used to mark an item as optional.

I. Introduction to Family Law Practice
   A. Ethical and Malpractice Issues in Family Law
   B. Paralegal Role in Family Law
   C. Client Interview, Case Investigation and Preparation of a Domestic Relations Case

II. Premarital Issues in Family Law
    A. Premarital Agreements
    B. Cohabitation Agreements

III. Marriage
     A. What Constitutes a Legal Marriage
     B. Annulment
     C. Dissolution

IV. Spousal Support and Property Issues
    A. Support Award
    B. Property Division and Separation Agreement
    C. Legal Rights of Women

V. Children Issues
   A. Child Custody
   B. Child Support
   C. Illegitimacy and Paternity
   D. Legal Status of Children
   E. Adoption

VI. Science in Family Law
    A. Embryos
    B. Posthumous Conception
    C. Surrogacy contracts