COURSE INFORMATION FORM

DISCIPLINE: Paralegal Practice
COURSE TITLE: Special Topics in Legal Studies

CR. HR. 1-3 LECT HR. 1-3 LAB HR. CLIN/INTERN HR. CLOCK HR. 

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
The open topic format of this course provides students opportunities to study, analyze, and discuss selected topics of law or current issues related to paralegals or the legal profession. Instruction will vary by topic and may include lecture, guided readings, discussions, research, writing, and/or field experiences. Repeatable for different topics. No more than six credits of special topics courses may be applied toward elective and/or paralegal program degree requirements.

PREREQUISITES
PARA 100

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

1. Describe the relationship of the selected topic to the delivery of legal services by lawyers, paralegals, and other non-lawyers.
2. Locate, analyze, and evaluate local, state, and federal laws related to the selected topic.
3. Identify and assess potential legal and ethical issues; explain methods to avoid conflicts and conduct violations.
4. Demonstrate understanding of technology used in the topic area.
5. Conduct research of the selected topic using print and electronic legal materials and communicate the results orally or in writing.
6. Explain the importance of professional development for lawyers, paralegals, and other non-lawyers.

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.

Outcomes (ESO)

1. Communication
   C. Writing Skills
      4. Gather information, evaluate its credibility, analyze and synthesize sources B.3. (1,2,5)

2. Critical Thinking
   B. Define, analyze, and evaluate information, materials and data
      3. Unambiguously define problems and issues (1,3,5)

3. Lifelong Learning
   A. Open-minded Inquiry
      3. Utilize modern information sources (2,4,5,6)
PROGRAM-LEVEL OUTCOMES

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OUTCOMES
Specify which Career and Technical program outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Career and Technical Education template” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes to assessment measures.

The student will demonstrate:

1. Broad knowledge of the subject matter of the special topic
2. Ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, on the subject matter of the special topic
3. Perform basic paralegal functions related to the subject matter of the special topic

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. Participation in discussions (1,2,3)
2. Assignments/Presentations/Projects (1-6)
3. Examinations (1-6)
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

II. Historical Perspective

III. Relationship to Other Laws

IV. Relevance to Paralegal Practice

V. Legal and Societal Costs and Benefits

VI. Technology*

VII. Ethics and Professional Responsibility

VIII. Best Practice Methods