

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: PL 205: Principles of Family Law

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: PL 101 Introduction to the Legal System

Description: An examination of the substantive and procedural areas of domestic relations law, including divorce, separation, custody, legitimacy, adoption, change of name, guardianship, and support.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

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- Identify and isolate legal issues in the various areas covered under the Family Law course
- Select the proper legal remedy for the client
- Properly and effectively interview the potential client in the various areas covered under the Family Law course
- Identify and isolate problems and anticipate difficult situations with the potential client and client-litigant
- Secure all facts from the client necessary to properly and effectively prepare the client's case
- Select the correct expert to assist (where appropriate and necessary) the client in the preparation of the case
- Demonstrate the ability to assist the expert to be effective for client and effective in court
- Prepare all necessary pleadings and correspondence in areas covered by course, including Complaints, Affidavits, Orders to Show Case, Case
- Information Statements, Matrimonial Early Settlement Panel Memorandums, Notice of Publications, Orders, Final Judgments and appropriate correspondence
- Define specific legal terms associated with the Family Law Practice and
- area of study
- File and process pleadings with the appropriate part of the Court System
- and serve parties with Summonses and Complaints or other pleadings properly
- Assist the attorney by freeing his/her time to practice law rather than administrate a client's file
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the New Jersey Court System, in particular, and Family Part, and how different matters are initiated and moved along through the Court System
- Recognize the Legal Assistant's (Paralegal) role and how to effectively provide services as a Legal Assistant to the attorney in the Family Law area.

### Topical Outline:

- Chapter 1:
- Introduction to Family Law and Practice
- Premarital Agreements and Cohabitation Agreements
- Traditional Marriage and Alternatives
- Annulment
- Divorce Grounds and Procedure
- Spousal Support, Property Division, and the Separation Agreement
- Child Custody
- Child Support
- Tax Consequences of Separation and Divorce
- The Legal Rights of Women
- Illegitimacy and Paternity Proceedings
- The Legal Status of Children
- Adoption
- The New Science of Motherhood
- Torts and Family Law

Text: Statsky, William P. (2003). *Family Law: The Essentials* (2<sup>nd</sup> Eds.). Cengage Learning.

Student Assessment: Assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

### Tutoring & Project Assist

If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

### **Before Withdrawing From This Course**

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) **BEFORE** withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to

completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.