

Topics: Introduction to the Legal Profession
PLSC437-001
Spring Semester, 2016
3 credits

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Course Meeting Times: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 – 3:15 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of selected topics in political science as announced in the class schedule. May be repeated with different topics. Grade Mode: A-F, I, W.

Topic: This course will include (but is not limited too) review of the American Bar Association expectations for those applying to law school, Law School Admission Council (LSAC) requirements, Law School Admission Test (LSAT) elements, how to prepare yourself now in the areas of active reading, case briefing, note taking, outlining, time management, writing, and structure of the U.S. Court System, hierarchy of authority, and specialized practice areas. The course will also include topics in Ethics & Professionalism, law school accreditation, and financial implications of legal study.

REQUIRED TEXT

Coming to Law School: How to Prepare Yourself for the Next Three Years by Ian Gallacher (2014). For ISBN and price information, please see the listing at the Bookstore at www.andrews.edu/bookstore.

COURSE CREDITS

This course is offered for 3 credits; therefore it is expected that you will spend 9 hours per week during the 15-week duration on academic work for this class. Academic work includes in class time (2 – 75 minutes sessions) and at least 6 hours outside of class time per week spent on reading assignments, written assignments, and group projects.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analysis
 - a. Compare and contrast the differences between public and private law.
 - i. Method of Assessment: Students will write and submit two separate papers addressing the various aspects of public and private legal practice.
2. Application
 - a. Students will choose a specific legal career path for investigation.
 - i. Method of Assessment: Students will write and submit a reflection paper, which addresses their personal strengths and weaknesses; educational requirements needed; financial realities; and additional information as necessary in relation to their chosen path.
3. Comprehension
 - a. Discuss and explain the process for applying to law school (including LSAC & LSAT requirements).
 - i. Method of Assessment: Active participation in class when called on to deliver verbal analysis, exams and quizzes.
 - b. Discuss and explain character development in relation to Ethics & Professionalism in both the study and practice of law.
 - i. Method of Assessment: Active participation in class when called on to deliver verbal analysis, exams and quizzes and paper.
4. Knowledge
 - a. Memorize, name, recognize, list, or describe the structure of the U.S. Court System; hierarchy of authority and other areas covered.
 - i. Method of Assessment: Active participation in class when called on to deliver verbal analysis, exams and quizzes.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Grades for this course will be comprised of quizzes, reflections, two exams, paper submittals, and class attendance/participation.

Method of Assessment	Percentage
Quizzes	10%
Reflections	10%
Exams	20%
Papers	40%
Class Participation	20%

QUIZZES

Quizzes are given at the beginning of class, please be prompt. Quizzes may not be made up due to being tardy or absent unless the tardy or absence is excused (see Attendance & Absences below).

REFLECTIONS

Reflections are written summaries of the topics covered by the guest lecturers. Reflections are due the class period after the guest lecture. Submittal requirements will be handed out in class.

EXAMS

There will be two exams in this course, one mid-term and one final exam, each worth 10% of the overall grade in the course.

PAPERS

There will be four papers required in this course, each worth 10% of the overall grade in the course. Submittal requirements will be handed out in class.

PAPER FORMAT

- 8 ½ x 11 page(s)
- 1" margin on all sides
- 12 point Times New Roman Font
- Single spaced

CLASS PARTICIPATION & THE PASS SYSTEM

In addition to the Attendance & Absences expectations below, students are graded on class participation. It is expected that students will be prepared for class. There are times when proper class preparation may not occur due to various circumstances. You are allotted one "pass" throughout the semester. The pass system is designed for you to benefit from class discussion without being called on. To utilize a pass you must write on a piece of paper "PASS" and include your name and leave it on the podium at the front of the classroom PRIOR to the beginning of class. No questions will be asked and it will not affect your final grade, however, if you do not utilize your pass and you are called on to lead a discussion and are unprepared the professor reserves the right to lower your grade by one letter grade.

COURSE EVALUATION

At the end of this course you will be asked to evaluate the content of this course (in addition to the Andrews University Course Evaluation).

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Class Attendance. Regular attendance at all classes, laboratories, and other academic appointments are required of each student. Faculty members are expected to keep regular attendance records. The syllabus notifies students of the attendance requirements.

Teacher Tardiness. Teachers have the responsibility of getting to class on time. If a teacher is detained and will be late, the teacher must send a message to the class with directions. If after 10 minutes no message has been received, students may leave without penalty. If teacher tardiness persists, students have the right to notify the department chair, or if the teacher is the department chair, to notify the dean.

Class Absences. Whenever the number of absences exceeds 20% (10% for graduate classes) of the total course appointments, the teacher may give a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence. Registered students are considered class members until they file a Change of Registration from in the Office of Academic Records.

Excused Absences. Excuses for absences due to illness are granted by the teacher. Proof of illness is required. Residence-hall students are required to see a nurse on the first full day of any illness, which interferes with class attendance. Non-residence hall students should show written verification of illness obtained from their own physician. Excuses for absences not due to illness

are issued directly from the dean's office. Excused absences do not remove the student's responsibility to complete all requirements of a course. Class work is made up by permission of the teacher.

Please refer to the Andrews University 2015-2016 Academic Bulletin at the link below:

http://bulletin.andrews.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1327#Student_Responsibilities

CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University learning thrives on the rigor of individual investigation, the authentic exchange of ideas, and a corporate commitment to integrity and mutual respect. University learning requires all members of the academic community to behave honestly. Andrews University anchors its practices in the teachings of the Bible as well as in widely established and honorable academic traditions. As the apostle Paul calls us to authenticity in our Christian walk, so the educational institution demands of its participant's true and accurate self-representation. In Ephesians, Paul invites believers "to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:23-24, NRSV). As scholars and as Christ servants, we build His living body through our honesty in all things, both small and great. To that end, Andrews University's faculty and students pledge to learn and grow together, committing to the following Standards and affirming honesty as a core component of an Andrews University education.

Please refer to the Andrews University Code of Academic Integrity at the link below:

https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

PROFESSIONALISM

To prepare students for the professional world, certain behaviors/activities are not allowed in the classroom.

- Cell Phones, Personal Laptops, and Recording devices: Cell phones should be turned off before entering the classroom. Picture taking during class is not allowed. Recording devices are allowed only if pre-approved by instructor, and if approved, under no circumstance are recordings—visual or verbal—to be posted on a public website.

Laptops should not be used for surfing the web or watching movies during class. It is disrespectful and unprofessional to use these devices inappropriately during class.

- Late Assignments are unacceptable unless prearranged with instructor.
- Tardiness
- Eating in class: Please do not bring food or beverages to class. Water is permitted.

Presentation is important. Your attention to detail, demeanor, and attire factor into how you are perceived as a professional. Active participation in class discussions and critiques is an essential part of learning. Without participating and expressing opinions and thoughts, it is impossible to clarify your goals and develop a personal style.

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.