

**De Anza College
Course Syllabus**

Overview of American Law – PARA 95

Text:	Hames, Joanne B. & Ekern, Yvonne, <i>Introduction to Law</i> , 5 th ed., Pearson Higher Education, 2014.
Course:	Overview of American Law – PARA 95
Term:	Summer 2020
Faculty:	Kevin S. Lee Juris Doctorate, D.C. School of Law Masters, Fuller Theological Seminary Bachelor of Science, Northeastern University
Contact Information:	Kevin S. Lee Legal/Business Administrator – City of San Jose 200 W. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, Ca. 95113 Cell: (408) 507-5310 Email: kslee32@gmail.com or leekevin2@fhda.edu
Availability	9:00am – 9:00pm via telephone, email, text
Schedule:	6:00pm – 9:50pm Online, 12 Sessions (Online)
Credit Hours:	4 units – Prerequisites:
Course Description:	(See De Anza College Expanded Course Description for more details)
Course Requirements:	Written assignments, including critical thinking, issue framing, on line legal research, and class participation. Quizzes and Final Examination. Class sessions consist of Assignment Overview, Facilitation, Discussion, Oral Presentations, and Analysis of Issues and Fact Scenarios.
Course Description	Overview of the major substantive areas of American law: contracts, constitutional law, corporations, criminal law, family law, property, torts, wills and estates.

Student Learning Outcome Statements:

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of the American judicial system and process, utilizing appropriate legal terminology.
- 2) Demonstrate the ability to read case law and statutory law.
- 3) Analyze factual situations in relationship to concepts of the major areas of substantive law in America.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Describe the components of the judicial system utilizing appropriate legal terminology.
- 2) Explain the steps involved in the judicial process, using appropriate legal terminology.
- 3) Describe the major areas of substantive law, utilizing appropriate legal terminology.
- 4) Demonstrate the ability to read case law and statutory law.
- 5) Compare and contrast the American legal system with that of other nations.

Suggested Reading:

- www.courtinfo.ca.gov California State Court Forms
- www.leginfo.ca.gov California Codes (statutes)
- www.cornell.edu Fed Statutes; Fed Regulations; Civil Procedure; Constitution; UCC; etc
- <http://oyez.nwu.edu> US Supreme court oral arguments and court briefs
- <http://uscourts.gov> Homepage of Federal courts

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that will not be tolerated and may result in failure for individual projects, course failure, and/or dismissal from the College. Submit work that represents your original words or ideas. Using another's work or ideas without acknowledgement or permission, or cheating in any form, is a serious violation. See De Anza's Academic Conduct Policy for more information.

Attendance: Regular attendance is a factor in awarding full credit for this course.

Course Standards: It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for each session. All assignments must be submitted on their due date. Students are expected to complete their reading assignments prior

to the scheduled class. It is required that students actively involve themselves in class discussions. Missing class, being late or unprepared will affect the Class Participation portion of a grade. All documents that are computer generated must be typewritten and double-spaced unless indicated otherwise.

Evaluation Method: The Quizzes, Final Exam, and other assignments constitute a substantial percentage of the course grade. To receive a grade, however, all preliminary assignments must be satisfactorily completed, and the requirements relative to class attendance must be met. The Final Exam is due during the final exam period. Homework assignments are graded separately. Students must submit all writing assignments to fulfill course requirements.

Weekly Reading and Assignments – 30%
 Quizzes – 30%
 Final Exam – 30%
 Attendance – 10%

Course Schedule

All Sessions include Chapter Overview, Facilitation, Discussion, Discussion, Oral Presentations, and Supplemental Assignments with Internet Searches.

Class Date	Topic	Activities/Assignments
Week 1	<p>Introduction to Law</p> <p>The U.S. Legal System</p> <p>The Courts and Legal Personnel</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 1, pp. 1-14 Homework: See Assignment Handout (Due Week #3) Review: Terms and Review Questions, p. 13 In-class: Video Lecture</p>
Week 2	<p>Introduction to Law – Cont.</p> <p>Finding the Law</p>	<p>Reading: Chapter 2, pp. 15-38; Skim Chapter 3 Homework: See Assignment Handout (Due Week #3) Review: Terms and Review Questions, p. 38</p>
Week 3	<p>Finding the Law</p> <p>Using the Law</p>	<p>QUIZ #1 – complete and submit Reading: Chapter 4, pp. 69-102 Homework: Assignments and Projects Q1 & Q2 (p. 102) Review: Review Questions, p. 102 In-class: Video Lecture</p>

Week 4	Constitutional Law	Reading: Chapter 6, pp. 129-171 Homework: Case Brief – <i>Morse v. Frederick</i> , p. 147 Review: Terms and Review Questions, p. 170 In-class: Video Lecture
Week 5	Tort Law	Reading: Chapter 7, pp. 172-211 Homework: Assignments and Projects Q1 & Q2 Review: Terms and Review Questions, In-class: Video Lecture
Week 6	Criminal Law and Juvenile Law	QUIZ #2 – complete and submit Reading: Chapter 14, pp. 398-425 Homework: Application Q1, p. 425 and brief <i>Breed v. Jones</i> , p. 420 Review: Review Terms and Review Questions, p. 425 In-class: Video Lecture
Week 7	Contract and Property Law	Reading: Chapter 10, pp. 265-304 Homework: Assignments and Projects Q3, p. 304 Review: Review Questions, 1-4 In-class: Video Lecture
Week 8	Evidence	Reading: Chapter 16, pp. 472-488 Homework: Application and Analysis Problem 1, p. 488 Review: Terms and Review Questions In-class: Video Lecture
Week 9	Civil Procedure Before Trial	QUIZ #3 – complete and submit Reading: Chapter 12, pp. 342-378 Homework: TBA Review: Review Questions In-class: Video Lecture
Week 10	Criminal Procedure Before Trial	Reading: Chapter 15, pp. 426-471 Homework: TBA Review: Review Terms and Review Questions; review for Final Exam In-class: Video Lecture

Week 11	The Trial	Reading: Chapter 17, pp. 489-508 Homework: TBA Review: Review for Final Exam
Week 12	Final Exam	Final Exam

"In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, De Anza College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical issues). I invite you to meet with a Disabilities Support Services (DSS) counselor or Learning Disability (LD) Specialist to discuss any accommodations or specific learning needs you may have. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable accommodations or services in this course, you will need to provide me with a Test Accommodation Verification (TAV) form from the DSS office. Students are expected to give 5 (five) days-notice of the need for accommodations. Students with disabilities may obtain this form by contacting their DSS counselor or LD Specialist at (408) 864-8753."

Student Success Center

Need help? De Anza's Student Success Center offers free online and on-campus tutoring and workshops! Visit

<http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess> for our hours and information.

Or just stop by to chat or sign up. Academic Skills Center for workshops and Adjunct study skills courses in ATC 302

General Subject tutoring in ATC 305

Listening & Speaking and World Language support in ATC 313

Math, Science and Technology tutoring in S43

Writing and Reading tutoring in ATC 309

Student Success Center Resources are available online to all De Anza students on Canvas:

<https://deanza.instructure.com/enroll/MAF7Y8>