

Georgia State University
LGLS 4030E – The Legal Process

8/19/09

Course Syllabus

- I. **PRE-REQUISITES:** BUSA 2106 or LGLS 3020 or consent of instructor. CSP 1.6. Requires a 2.5 GSU GPA and 75 semester hours.
- II. **COURSE SUMMARY:** The course will be of particular benefit to those who want to be better able to manage their inevitable encounters with the law. This benefit will flow from students gaining a better understanding the legal process and the role of the major actors in that process: lawyers, judges, and clients. The result will be to decrease their vulnerability to the whims and pitfalls of our legalistic society. The course will also be of value to those considering attending law school.
- III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To assist students in developing in the ability to:
- A. Explain and apply the fundamentals of legal reasoning;
 - B. Contrast the role of lawyers, judges, and clients in the legal process;
 - C. Distinguish between the common perceptions and the reality of the legal process; and
 - D. Evaluate critically the quality of legal advice provided them or their company.
- IV. **TEACHING METHODOLOGIES:** Very limited lecturing; we will have extensive class discussions related to course topics and also will use other non-lecture techniques, including guest speakers and videos related to the legal process.
- V. **EVALUATION PROCEDURE:**

Weighting:

Reading Critiques	20%
Class Discussion	20%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	40%
	100%

Methodology:

Exams and all other graded work will receive a letter grade (A+, A, A-, B+, B, etc.). Those grades are then converted to a numerical equivalent on a 4.0 scale (A+=4.3, A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B=3.0, etc.). The numerical equivalents are weighted as noted above, averaged, and rounded to the nearest 0.1 to determine the course grade. An average of 4.1 or above earns an A+; 3.8-4.0 earns an A; 3.5-3.7 earns an A-; 3.2-3.4 earns a B+; 2.8-3.1 earns a B; 2.5-2.7 earns a B-; 2.2-2.4 earns a C+; 1.8-2.1 earns a C; 1.5-1.7 earns a C-; 0.5-1.4 earns a D and 0.4 or below earns an F.

- VI. **REQUIRED TEXTS:** The required books are listed on the attached Booklist.
- VII. **CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Each unexcused absence in excess of one will result in a reduction of 0.1 (on a scale of 4.0) in the student's final course average. Students are

responsible for all material covered in class including, but not limited to, assignments and syllabus revisions announced during class. **No make up opportunities will be given for missed exams.** Rescheduling of exams will be allowed only if advance arrangements have been made with the instructor. **There will be no extra credit opportunities in this course.**

- VIII. **PREPARATION FOR CLASS:** Each student is expected to be fully prepared at all times to respond effectively to instructor and fellow-student questioning and comments about assigned readings and to be prepared to participate actively and thoughtfully in class discussions.
- IX. **CLASS CONTENT AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:** (see separate sheet)
- X. **READING CRITIQUES:** A two-page, double-spaced critique will be required for each assigned reading. Critiques will be due the day that the reading is to be completed. Each critique shall consist of two parts: a summary of the book (maximum of 1/3 of the critique); and an analysis of the same. At a minimum, the analysis section should address three questions: (1) What, specifically, did the reading contribute to your improved understanding of lawyers and/or the legal process? (2) What risks to legal clients were identified by the book? (3) What strategies for dealing with the identified risk were identified by the book?
- XI. **CLASS DISCUSSION:** Class discussions will be a major part of this course.
- XII. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** At a minimum, all students must comply with the GSU Policy on Academic Honesty.
- XIII. **NOTES:**
1. Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.
 2. Failure to complete satisfactorily any significant assignment or take any exam may result in a grade of Incomplete, at the discretion of the instructor.
 3. **Final course grades will not be provided directly to students by the instructor.**