



HAMLINE UNIVERSITY
School of Law
COURSE SYLLABUS

Faculty: **Professor Susan C. Rhode and Debra E. Yerigan**

Course: **Family Law**

Semester: **Summer 2010**

Meeting Schedule: **Monday and Wednesdays, 4:30 to 7:30**

Room:

Textbook	Primary Text	Primary Text	Recommended not required
Author	Abrams, Cahn, Ross & Meyer	Minn. Stat. 518, 518 A-D, 519 and 257C	
Title and edition of text	Contemporary Family Law	Online	
Publisher/year	West 2009		
ISBN	978-0-314-19565-4		

Learning Outcomes for the Course:

Students will have a general working knowledge of Minnesota and Federal laws regarding dissolution, parentage and other related issues. Students will be introduced to aspects of family law practice including ethics, different practice methods and skill sets needed to practice family law.

Course Expectations:

HUSL Policies on attendance, lateness and preparation

The program of instruction at the School of Law is based on an active and informed exchange between instructor and student and between student and student. Regular, prepared class attendance helps develop skills essential to the competent practice of law. A student who violates the attendance policy, including the instructor's specification of class expectation described below, may lose his or her right to take the exam in the course, to receive course credit or may receive other penalties described below and in Academic Rule 108. Persistent or frequent lateness or unpreparedness may also be the basis for reduction of the grade awarded in a course. See Academic Rule 108 for further details.

Attendance Policies in this Course

Each class will cover at least one substantive area of family law, consequently regular attendance will be necessary to obtain a comprehensive survey of family law.

Punctuality/Preparation Policies in this Course

A substantial portion of the class will be discussion and impromptu debate. Preparation is key to a meaningful classroom experience.

Policy on Laptop Use in Class:

Permitted at student's discretion except for designated segments where laptops will not be permitted.

Other Classroom Policies:

Grading Components

Final examination:

Date/Time:	Wednesday, August 4, 2010
Requirements:	In class exam with written answers to hypothetical fact patterns with numerous issues.
Component(s) of your grade:	40%

Mid-term exam or quizzes

Dates/Times: None

Requirements:

Component(s) of your grade:

Written Assignments:

Dates/Times: To be determined

Requirements: Letter to opposing counsel re temporary support and parenting; memo to partner regarding settlement issues; letter to client regarding settlement options.

Component(s) of your grade: 30%

Oral Presentation(s)

Dates/Times: Throughout the course

Requirements: Students will present throughout the course in small group and individually including client interviews, oral argument on various social and legal issues presented by course topics and speakers.

Component(s) of your grade: 20%

Participation/Other Grade

Components

Requirements: Active listening and participation in discussions.

Component(s) of your grade 10%

Initial reading assignments (first two weeks):

June 2, 2010: Chapters 1 and 3 of Contemporary Family Law

June 7, 2010: Chapters 8 and 16 of Contemporary Family Law

June 9, 2010: Chapters 12 and 13 of Contemporary Family Law