INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA LAW
De Anza College – Social Science Division
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FALL Quarter 2008
Para 94 - 4 Units

CLASSES: M, T, W & Th 9:30 am – 10:20 am in Room L22

OFFICE HOURS: 10:30 am – 11:00 am Monday & Wednesday L13

TEXTBOOK: Introduction to Law 3rd Ed., Hames & Ekern; Selected reading on the Internet.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction and exploration of the California legal system, including organization, operation and major legal concepts; introduction to the Federal legal system as it operates in California; the role of the paralegal.

ASSIGNMENTS: Both reading and writing assignments are required for this class. Some of the assignments will be done in class, others will be assigned as homework. All written homework assignments must be typed, double spaced and stapled together. Absent, exceptional reasons, late papers are not accepted. If a student cannot attend a class during which a paper is due, the paper must be emailed or left in my mailbox. (Instructor is sole judge of exceptional reasons.) Any student who fails to turn in two assignments or misses more than 3 classes will not receive a passing grade in the class.

GRADING POLICY: The final grade is the cumulative number of percentage points each student achieves on the following exams and assignments, given the percentage weight as indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments 1-3</th>
<th>35% of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes &amp; Final Exam</td>
<td>50% of final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>5% of final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mock Trial</td>
<td>10% of final grade</td>
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Grading scale:
100-93 = A
86-83 = B
76-73 = C
66-63 = D

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED, AND THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required. Class participation is encouraged. Class participation and attendance will be factored into the student’s final grade. A sign-in sheet will be provided at every class session and each student is required to sign in at every class.

Drop Policy: If a student is present the first day of class and thereafter wishes to drop the course, the student must take responsibility for completing all paperwork. Instructor will not take care of this for
the student. However, instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses 2 classes without contacting the instructor or fails to turn in 2 consecutive assignments. There is no guarantee however, that the instructor will exercise this right to drop a student. If the student wishes to be sure that he is dropped from the class without penalty then it is up to the student to take all necessary steps. Failure to do so may result in the student receiving an “F” grade in the class.

POUNTS TO REMEMBER:

Dropping the Class: Students who drop the class or stop attending MUST process the appropriate form(s) through the Admissions and Records office in order to avoid receiving an “F” in the class. It is the student’s responsibility to confirm the last day to drop the class and have the proper paperwork timely completed and submitted.

Cheating Policy: Cheating and/or plagiarism will be considered student misconduct. All quotes, sentences and other material obtained through other resources, book, internet, etc. must be properly identified and cited. If a student presents any plagiarized work as their own, they will be immediately dropped from the class. Further discipline may occur.

Recording and Notes: Audio recording of the lectures is generally allowed, however, students may not duplicate the recordings or duplicate and sell notes or records of the lecture(s). If a student is found to have duplicated and/or sold notes and lectures, they will be immediately dropped from the class and further discipline may occur.

Reasonable Accommodations: Please contact the college’s administration regarding any documented disabilities that require reasonable accommodations.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Cell phones, blackberries and other electronic devices must be turned off or on silent mode during the class.

Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Everyone is expected to treat each other with respect therefore rude and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
COURSE SYLLABUS & READING ASSIGNMENTS

Weeks 1, 2 & 3  **Chapter 1** The Legal Community, **Chapter 2** American Legal System & **Chapter 3** Sources of Laws
Supplemental Reading:  *See Internet Assignment 1*

Weeks 3 - 4  **Chapter 4** Finding the Law and **Chapter 5** Using the Law
Supplemental Reading:  Appendix V - *Marvin v. Marvin* case

Weeks 4 - 5  **Chapter 6** Civil vs. Criminal

http://www.scselfservice.org/default.htm

QUIZ chapters 1- 4 (Date TBD during Quarter)

Week 6  **Chapter 8** Family Law & **Chapter 10** Business Practice

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_18fam.htm

http://www.ss.ca.gov/business/business.htm

Weeks 7- 8  **Chapters 12 & 14** Criminal Law and Procedure

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_other.htm

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_13crim.htm

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_18fam_juvct.htm

QUIZ chapters 5, 6, 8 & 10 (Date TBD during Quarter)

Weeks 8 - 9  **Chapters 13 & 15** Alternative Dispute Resolution & Civil Procedure

http://www.scselfservice.org/default.htm

http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/4_5civil.htm

Weeks 9-10  **Chapter 16 & 17** Rules of Evidence and The Trial

Weeks 10- 11  **Chapter 18** Constitutional Law and & **Chapter 19** Law & Technology

MOCK TRIAL in Class 12/04/08

Week 12  FINAL EXAM FRIDAY 12/12/08 @ 9:15 am, L22

*All dates APPROXIMATE - Instructor reserves the right to change these dates.*
ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be typed, and include your name and page numbers (if multiple pages). If the assignment consists of multiple pages or includes copies/attachments, all pages must be stapled together, or bound.

Written Assignment 1 (30 points)

Internet Assignment:

A. Go to home page for state of California www.ca.gov. Check out the site and links therein. Locate and visit the sites for the Department of Corporations and for the Secretary of State to answer the following:

Questions re Department of Corporations:

1. What does the department do? (read About the Department of Corporations)
2. What does the securities regulation division do?
3. What does the enforcement and legal services division do?

Questions re Secretary of State

4. Who is the secretary of state for California and what are the Secretary’s duties?
5. Which “Special Programs” are described?

B. Visit the home page for the California courts (www.courtinfo.ca.gov). Take the “guided tour”. Find answers to the following questions:

6. Who are the members of the California Supreme Court?
7. What are the qualifications for a California Supreme Court Judge? (http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/about.htm)
8. What is the Judicial Council?
9. List 4 Judicial Branch Agencies. (http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/about/)
10. Outline a day in the life of the Alameda Court. (http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/dayarch/alamday1.htm)

C. Next, go to the following site: http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/about.htm

Answer the following questions.

11. What are the two types of courts in California?
12. What do the courts of appeals do?
13. Which counties are in the 6th appellate district? In which district is San Francisco located?
14. Which court is small claims court part of? What is the monetary limit of small claims court?
15. What is a “judge pro tem”?

Due: 10/2/08
Assignment 2 (50 points) Questions in Text

Answer in Writing:
- Katzenbach case, pgs. 30-32, questions 1, 2 & 3
- Texas v. Johnson, pgs. 33-34, questions 1, 2, & 3
- Koon case, pgs. 57-60, questions 1, 2, 3
- Tennessee v. Garner, pgs. 61-63, questions 2, 4, 5, & 6
- Powell v. Alabama, pgs. 65-67, questions 3, 4 & 6

Due: 10/27/08

Assignment 3- (20 points)

TBD - Details given in class

Due: 11/13/08

Assignment 4 - MOCK TRIAL

12/4/08 - Details given in class