Honors Seminar V & VI: IDH 3034 (Fall 2015) – Law School in A Nutshell

Class Time/Location: Wednesday 5:00 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. in Room PC 443  
Course Director: Anthony A. Rionda, MPA  
arionda@fiu.edu - 305-348-1814

Office hours by Appointment

Course Goals:

• To assist students in selecting a career in the legal profession.
• To improve student preparedness for a career in law (e.g. acquiring competencies basic to success as a law student and lawyer, preparing for the challenges of the LSAT and the academic rigors of law school).
• To help students acquire knowledge that will advance their understanding of the U.S. Legal system, the role of international Law, and the difference between civil and common Law. Students will be introduction to Legal Research and Writing, exam preparation skills, and first year classes: Contracts, Torts, and Constitutional Law.
• To provide opportunities for mentorship and guidance by College of Law Faculty, Alumni and Students.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this two-semester course, students will:

• Be able to evaluate and assess their own commitment and aptitude for entry into and success in law school
• Develop their interest and skills in service, leadership, communication, analysis and organization
• Develop essential learning skills and strategies for time management, preparation, writing, research, and test taking needed for success in professional schools and careers.
• Be able to apply their knowledge to solve problems that require logical reasoning
• Have acquired habits of thought that will prepare them for careers in law
• Understand the expectations and rigors of achieving the JD degree
• Understand the basic history, structure and impact of the judiciary system and the legal profession
• Have developed skills to work collaboratively and in an interdisciplinary manner
• Have acquired the knowledge and skills needed to prepare for the LSAT (or corollary exam), and how to be well positioned to be a successful applicant to law school
Format:

- Class meets one per week.
  - Class sessions may be subdivided to accommodate guest speakers, lectures, and activities.
  - Each class will begin with an exercise and/or brief quiz on the previous weeks required readings.
  - Online preparation is critical to success in this course.
- Class will be supplemented by:
  - Readings to be assigned by course instructor or visiting lecturers.
  - Meeting with FIU Law faculty outside of the class period to discuss current topics in the law, and specific areas of study.
  - Videos – posted on Blackboard or available on Netflix.
  - Core Grammar for Lawyers 2d
- Online Expectations
  - Active online participation on blackboard discussion forums
  - Review of all weekly course materials, and media posted on blackboard.

Honors College Requirements:

Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity.

1. Honors Citizenship Requirements

   Beginning in Fall 2014, Honors College students are required to accumulate at least 20 citizenship points each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate 10 citizenship points. See http://honors.fiu.edu/academics/policies/citizenship/.

2. Student Portfolios

   The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students’ learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what “artifacts” or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student-learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience. See www.honors.fiu.edu/portfolios.

3. Honors College Academic Misconduct Statement

   In The Honors College, the term “honor” refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.
4. Procedures and Penalties

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Honors College website (http://honors.fiu.edu/academics/policies/), and the Academic Misconduct Procedures, available at http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

FIU Honors College Plagiarism Policy – http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html

FIU Honors College Student Handbook – http://honors.fiu.edu/handbook0910.html


5. Religious Observances

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements or scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

6. Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (drc.fiu.edu), if you have not done so already.
GL Learning Outcomes for IDH 3034-5

· **Global Awareness:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems.

· **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of the interrelated global dynamics (social-cultural, political, economic, etc.) that shape aesthetics, values, and authority in diverse cultural contexts.

· **Global Perspectives:** Students will be able to develop a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.

· **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will be able to analyze the multiple global forces that shape their understanding of aesthetics, values, and authority — economic, political, sociological, technological, cultural, etc.

· **Global Engagement:** Students will be able to demonstrate a willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.

· **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will be able to develop solutions to local, global, international, and/or intercultural problems related to aesthetics, values, and authority.

Grading and Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (Including pre-law exercises)</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supreme Court brief and Presentation (5 pages)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Writing and Research Exercise and Core Grammar for Lawyers.</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Attendance

Because this class meets once per week – one excused absence will be allowed.

It will not be possible to make up grades for missed presentations, class participation, or for missed quizzes. Two unexcused absences will result in a decrease of one letter grade. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a course grade of ‘F.’

Participation (20%)

This course will require preparation that will mirror the expectations of Professors in Law School. Readings MUST be completed before class, and students must be prepared to get called on in class.

A seating chart will be developed, and students will be expected to sit in the same seats selected on the first day.

Pre-law related exercises (Resume, Personal Statement, Letter of Rec. etc.) will count towards your participation grade.

Quizzes (30%)

Quizzes will be administered both in person and online via blackboard.

Brethren Quiz will be worth 10% of final grade.

In-class quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each class and cover the assigned reading materials from the previous class (10%).

Online quizzes will be based on Contracts, Constitutional Law, and Torts (10%).

Assignments

1. Supreme Court Paper and Presentation (15%)
   a. Each student will be assigned one historic Supreme Court case. Each student will be responsible for presenting the case to the class (including its impact).
      i. Students will select from a pre-determined list of cases.
      ii. Cases must use 3-4 sources.
      iii. Each student will have to prepare a one-page brief for the class.

2. Legal Research and Writing Assignment (15%)
   a. Writing a brief, memo, and legal research assignment.
   b. Complete Core Grammar for Lawyers

3. Final Exam (20%)
   a. Multiple Choice (20 questions)
   b. Short Answer (3 questions)
   c. Essay
Required Books (Recommended to purchase online)

- Core Grammar for Lawyers: [http://www.coregrammarforlawyers.com](http://www.coregrammarforlawyers.com) (will be discussed in class. Do not purchase before class discussion).
- Other Materials and Cases will be provided electronically or in hard copy. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly.

Course Outline

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Course Introduction, Expectations, Preparation, and Course Format. Introduction to the U.S. Judiciary System.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Introduction to the Philosophy of Law, Legal Reasoning, Civil + Common Law, International Law.</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>The Supreme Court</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>Legal Writing and Research</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>Legal Writing and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Presentation by Students <em>Preparing for 1L.</em></td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>Torts</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>Contracts</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>VETERANS DAY – NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Review for Exam – How to take an exam</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Review - Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam Schedule (No meeting)</td>
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*Note: The course outline schedule is subject to change.*
The Spring 2016 syllabus will be available in August 2015.

** A detailed week by week handout will be provided during the first class that identifies each guest lecturer, assignments due, optional videos and readings, and details about online supplemental information.