

Syllabus for
GOV 299—Introduction to Law
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2015

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the law and legal system of the United States, covering the basic history, structure, and methodology of the U.S. adversarial system of justice. Topics covered include: administrative law, constitutional law, civil procedure, torts, contracts, family law, and criminal law.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

This purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Outline the historical development of the American legal system.
- B. Discuss major shifts in the perspectives on the law and legal education.
- C. Identify ways in which the Christian worldview helped shape the American legal system.
- D. Identify the types of legal practices.
- E. Analyze current legal issues.
- F. Understand the role of the lawyer in American society.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Explain the common law tradition as it relates to the American legal system.
- B. Define basic legal terminology.
- C. Formulate the case for the Biblical underpinnings of the American legal system.
- D. Compare the major areas of law practice.
- E. Explain the core beliefs about the role of law in contemporary American society.
- F. Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and operation of the American court system.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks
Burnham, William. *Introduction to the Law and Legal System of the United States*. St Paul, MN: West Publishing. ISBN: 0-314-06661-06
2. Other
None

A. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks
Titus, Herbert. *God, Man and Law: The Biblical Principles*. Oak Brook, IL: Institute for Basic Life Principles, 1994. ISBN-10: 0-916888-17-7
2. Other
Class reading will be supplemented with handouts.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.

5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. Department Policies and Procedures
1. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, excessive tardies may adversely affect the semester grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the tardy; the student is the one responsible for conveying that information immediately following that class, not at a later time.
 2. **Incompletes**—As stated in the University catalog, incompletes are granted only for "good cause," such as extended hospitalization, long-term illness, or a death in the family. Students must petition for an incomplete using the form available in the History, Humanities, and Government Department. Very few incompletes are granted.
 3. **Late Work**
 - a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. Late work may result in a lower grade. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. Computer or printer malfunction does not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it proofread, edited, and printed prior to the instructor's due date. Any test taken late incurs a \$15 late-test fee. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
 - b. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy that is given to students at the beginning of a course. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work resulting from all other absences. In cases where these absences can be anticipated, such as for non-University sponsored mission trips, the work should normally be submitted prior to the absence. In unanticipated absences, such as sickness or family crises, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible and agreement reached on due dates and possible penalties.
 4. **Attendance**—Because unavoidable circumstances can prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for absences such as illness, personal business, and emergency. The student may consider this "sick leave." If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course may be affected. A student who leaves class before dismissal may be marked absent. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require verification from a doctor.

5. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Only absences that are required by approved University activities are given administrative excuses. Students who must miss class for University-sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
 - a. Inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually agreed upon deadline.
 - b. Present an administrative excuse form with appropriate signatures when he or she returns to class. Doctors' or nurses' notes, or letters from groups sponsoring mission trips or activities do not qualify a student for an administratively excused absence.
 - c. Obtain information covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled.
 - d. Not commit to class presentation (oral reports, speeches, group presentations, etc.) on a date that the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily committed to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
6. **Extra Credit**—Students should not expect extra credit to help raise a grade.
7. **Plagiarism**—Each student attending Oral Roberts University is required to do his or her own academic work and must not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments. Students must document all sources and ideas that are not their own original information by following correct MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation procedures. Failure to do this produces a plagiarized paper, which results in an F for the paper. Photocopies of sources must be turned in with research papers. Flagrant cheating results in an F for the course.
8. **Whole Person Assessment**
 - a. **Compliance**—To be listed as “compliant” the student must correctly submit electronically the artifact for assessment. “Noncompliant” means the student has either not submitted or incorrectly submitted the artifact electronically. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that he or she is in compliance. Compliance is verified by checking for the assessment results in the student’s ePortfolio. If there is a problem, the student may receive notification by the professor/assessor through the student’s ORU email address.
 - b. **Requirements**—The APA requirements for this class are listed in the General Education Whole Person Assessment Handbook.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Class participation	10%
2 Examinations	40%
Final Examination	50%
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

None
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures
 - a. All students are expected to be prepared to discuss the reading assignment for every class.
 - b. Written assignments are short weekly research papers.
 - c. There is one exam in essay form.
 - d. The final examination is cumulative

- e. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defines plagiarize as “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own.” In standard academic practice, this means if you copy any more than three consecutive words written or spoken by another, you must acknowledge the source of these words by using a footnote and by either enclosing the words in quotation marks or (if a longer quotation) uniformly indenting and single-spacing the material.
- f. Correct form for footnotes, bibliography, and so on is found in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers*.
- g. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, whether accidental or intentional.
- h. The automatic minimum penalty for it will be an F on the paper or other assignment involved; more typically, an F for the course is assessed. If done with intent, additional disciplinary proceedings are likely, up to and including expulsion from the University.

V. COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Course Introduction	Introduction to Law—Chapter 1
2	Legal Methodology	Introduction to Law—Chapter 2
3	Adversarial Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 3
4	Judicial System	Introduction to Law—Chapter 5
5	Administrative Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 6
	Exam #1	
6	Civil Procedure	Introduction to Law—Chapter 7
7	Criminal Procedure	Introduction to Law—Chapter 8
8	Constitutional Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 9
9	Contract Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 10
10	Tort Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 11
	Exam #2	
11	Property Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 12
12	Family Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 13
13	Criminal Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 14
14	Business Law	Introduction to Law—Chapter 15
15	The Legal Profession	Introduction to Law—Chapter 4
16	Final Exam	

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
GOV 299—Introduction to Law
Fall 2015

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

	OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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1	Outcome #1—Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge		X		
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior	X			

2	Outcome #2—Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			

3	Outcome #3—Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X

4	Outcome #4—Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills		X		
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences			X	
4D	Responsible citizenship	X			
4E	Leadership capacity	X			