

5368B564 - POLS 220 Introduction to Law

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POLITICAL SCIENCE 220—Introduction to Law

Spring Quarter 2016

Hours and Location:

Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.

D 101

Office hours by appointment

Instructor:

Nicholas Price (Please call me Nick!)

J.D., Harvard Law School

B.A., University of Washington, Seattle

Member, Washington State Bar Association

The instructor is a lawyer licensed to practice in Washington State, but neither the course, nor lectures, nor anything else related to the course constitutes legal advice. *This course only presents an overview of American law and does not provide adequate tools for you to appropriately analyze real-world legal situations. Lawyers spend their entire careers focusing on the material we'll survey during single course sessions.*

Individuals should therefore seek the advice of licensed and qualified legal counsel and enter into an attorney-client relationship when seeking legal advice.

Mandatory Coursebook:

Law 101: Everything You Need to Know About American Law, Fourth Edition by Jay Feinman. All reading assignments and the reading schedule are posted in the "modules" section of Canvas.

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the American legal system. The course will also introduce students to the analytic approaches lawyers utilize; lawyering requires more than mere rule memorization. Lawyers must often apply new laws to unique situations where no clear answer exists.

Students will be responsible for the assigned reading, attending class, in-class exercises, and writing assignments, as described below. Each class period will briefly review the assigned reading and prior material, but will primarily focus on the *application* of those legal concepts to real-world situations; it is therefore crucial that students attend class and complete the reading *prior* to attending class.

All updates to this course will be posted on Canvas—you are responsible for regularly checking this course's Canvas page!

Course Goals:

After completing this class, you should be able to:

- Understand the structure and function of the American legal system
- Understand and be able to use legal terminology
- Be able to analyze a basic factual problem in light of statutory or case law
- Be able to explain basic court procedures used in civil and criminal cases
- Develop a basic understanding of major areas of substantive law
- Know how to read and brief a case
- Know how to read and analyze a statute

E-Mail Etiquette* (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/syllabus#_ftn1):

Please *only message me on Canvas*—I set aside time specifically to respond to Canvas messages. Messaging me on Canvas will ensure the quickest possible response.

You should use professional-grade, typo-free writing when drafting electronic messages. Your attention to detail reflects your professionalism; I don't take typos personally, I just want to prepare you for the real world. You should also employ the below email conventions.

Please include in Canvas message subject lines: 1) an identification of both the class; and 2) the matter (example: "POLS 220—Week 3 Quiz; NOT "question"). Most professionals receive dozens—*if not hundreds*—of e-mails daily. The subject line provides an opportunity to summarize your request and allows the reader to appropriately triage your question.

Also, if you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours (longer on weekends/holidays), it could mean that, for whatever reason, I did not receive your message. If I do not respond, please feel free to send me another message to ensure that I've received your message.

You are responsible for confirming receipt of any message. Consequences for any glitches resulting from not following these or any other instructions are your responsibility—you are training for a college-educated career and should act as if every responsibility is your own.

Grades will be awarded as follows:

GRADE	POINTS	PERCENTAGE
A	4.0	92-100
A-	3.7	90-91
B+	3.3	88-89
B	3.0	82-87
B-	2.7	80-81
C+	2.3	78-79
C	2.0	72-77
C-	1.7	70-71
D+	1.3	68-69
D	1.0	62-67
F	0.0	BELOW 62

Academic Integrity:

If you choose to cheat, steal, or plagiarize, then you will receive a zero for the assignment. You might also receive a failing grade for the course.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying answers on exams, glancing at nearby exams, turning in assignments or papers that have been used in other classes, and giving or receiving help during an exam. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, purchasing or selling notes, assignments, or examination materials.

Stealing includes, but is not limited to, using the text, notes, exams, library books or other personal property of others without their permission.

Plagiarism is presenting the words, ideas, and/or work of others as your own. It includes, but is not limited to, using other's papers as one's own and including parts of published works without giving credit where credit is due.

Late Policy:

All assignments are due on the dates specified below unless you are notified otherwise. Late assignments receive zero points.

If you are experiencing difficulties comprehending or completing the material, are experiencing personal hardship, or otherwise need to make any other arrangements, please contact me as soon as possible. *In order for me to grant an exception to the standard grading policies, you must e-mail me BEFORE the due date of the particular assignment with documentation of an excuse (e.g., a doctor's note, etc.).*

Affirmation of Inclusion:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at BC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Code of Honor:

By being a student in this course you acknowledge that you are a part of a learning community at Bellevue College that is committed to the highest academic standards. As a part of this community, you pledge to uphold the fundamental standards of honesty, respect, and integrity, and accept the responsibility to encourage others to adhere to these standards.

Accommodations:

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment, and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact DRC as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Application information and other helpful links are available at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc.

Public Safety:

The Bellevue College Public Safety services provide personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425-564-2400. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/> for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements, and critical information in the event of an emergency.

Assignments and Grade Weight:

All assignment due dates are posted in the "modules" section of Canvas. The assignment descriptions are posted in the "assignments" section of Canvas. The assignment descriptions will be unlocked during the weeks preceding the assignment due dates.

In-class participation—5%. Class attendance is mandatory. We will complete in-class discussion and exercises in addition to lecture. Additionally, I will reward students who regularly participate. You can earn full participation points by completing in-class assignments, and asking thoughtful questions or making insightful comments, whether in class, during office hours, or in your emails.

Legal Activity Memo—20%. Students will attend court, a political event, or a law-making session and will draft a two-page summary of the event

and its specific relationship to American law. Details will be discussed during class and posted on Canvas.

2-page Case Essay. Version 1—15%; Final Version—30%. Students will complete a 2-page case essay describing the background of a case to a non-legal audience, and then argue why the outcome was fair or unfair. The memo must describe an abundance of complex legal information and arguments; the assignment therefore exercises written clarity and brevity. Details will be discussed during class and on the Canvas pages.

Students are encouraged to utilize the [Writing Lab](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/works/) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/works/>) resources.

4-6 page course-end project—30%. Students will complete a 4-6 page essay detailing the major legal issues that often confront a non-profit or businesses, creating a request for legal services from outside legal counsel. The project is designed to introduce students to the legal problems they might eventually confront as citizens. Details will be discussed during class and on the Canvas pages.

Students are encouraged to utilize the [Writing Lab](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/works/) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/asc/writing/works/>) resources.

* (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/syllabus#_ftnref). These e-mail etiquette policies are borrowed in part from Dr. Michael S. Brown.

Date	Details	due by
Mon Apr 4, 2016	Discuss Syllabus and Course Policies (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7608975)	11:59pm
Wed Apr 6, 2016	Discuss Law School and the State of the American Legal Profession (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7608976)	11:59pm
Mon Apr 11, 2016	Read: Constitutional Law and Constitutional Politics: Interpreting and Applying the Constitution (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632395)	11:59pm
Mon Apr 18, 2016	Read: First Freedoms: Constitutional Rights (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632397)	11:59pm
Mon Apr 25, 2016	Read: Your Day in Court: The Litigation Process (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632399)	11:59pm
Thu Apr 28, 2016	Legal Activity Memo DUE AT 11:59 P.M. (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7608972)	11:59pm
Mon May 9, 2016	Read: Auto Accidents, Scalding Coffee, and Medical Malpractice: Personal Injuries and Tort Law (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632401)	11:59pm
Mon May 16, 2016	Read: When is a Deal a Deal?: Business, Consumers, and Contract Law (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632402)	11:59pm
Thu May 19, 2016	CASE ESSAY: VERSION 1 DUE AT 11:59 P.M. (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7608969)	11:59pm
Mon May 23, 2016	Read: You Are What You Own: The Law of Property You Are What You Own: The Law of Property (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632403)	11:59pm
Tue May 31, 2016	2-Page Case Essay Final Version DUE AT 11:59 P.M. (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7608968)	11:59pm

Wed Jun 1, 2016	<u>Read: From Insanity To In Cold Blood: Criminal Responsibility and Criminal Law</u> (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632405)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 6, 2016	<u>Read: Protecting the Innocent, Freeing the Guilty: Criminal Procedure</u> (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632406)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 8, 2016	<u>Discuss Thematic Conclusions</u> (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632429)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 13, 2016	<u>Discuss Final Questions for Course-End Project</u> (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7632432)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jun 15, 2016	<u>Course-End Project DUE AT 11:59 P.M.</u> (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7608970)	due by 11:59pm
	<u>In-class participation</u> (https://bc.instructure.com/courses/1263098/assignments/7608971)	