FAMILY LAW
SYLLABUS
Fall Semester 2006

Required Text


We will cover the following material in the following order. Those topics that are designated as a unit must be read in their entirety before classroom discussion. The indicated statutory material, located in the appendix, must be read with each assignment.

The standing assignment is 30 pages from where we ended the previous class. If the next 30 pages places you in the middle of a unit that must be read as a whole, finish the unit. I will tell you if I anticipate covering more than 30 pages in a class period.


2. Fraud and the Marital Relationship. CB pp. 32-41.

3. Formalities for a Ceremonial Marriage. CB pp. 42-43; 43 O.S. §§4-36 (skim)


5. Marriage Presumptions. CB 55-65


8. Divorce. CB pp. 81-92; 43 O.S. §§101-107.1; 108; 130; 132-133.

9. Role of the Divorce Attorney. CB pp. 93-107; (Note: This section will include an extended lecture on "How to Practice Safe Divorce Law in the New Millennium).

10. Multi-State Divorce. CB pp. 108-128; 43 O.S. §§102;104;131; (Note: This material must be read as a unit. Since it is the most conceptually difficult material in the course, you should plan extra time to read and work with the cases).

11. Divorce Procedure. CB pp. 129-135; 43 O.S. §§103; 110

13. Introduction to Property Division. CB pp.151-152; 43 O.S. §§121;134(A). (This is an introductory lecture to property division. It should last almost one hour.)

14. Degrees and Licenses. CB pp. 153-178; (Read as a unit).


17. Pensions and Profit Sharing Plans CB pp. 206-212


22. Valuation and Distribution of Marital Property. CB 272-290. 43 O.S. §§121-122.

23. Standards for Alimony. CB pp. 291-308; 43 O.S. §§121,134 (Read as a unit).


25. Marital Agreements. CB 328-370.


27. Modification of Child Support. CB 395-416; 43 O.S. §§112(D)(E), 112.1A; 114,135-139.1.


ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION

All students must attend class and be prepared. Attendance and preparation are as important in law school as in the practice of law. Just as in practice, you are allowed a certain amount of leeway after which sanctions will be applied. You may have three absences or instances of being unprepared for whatever reason you wish. It is not necessary to inform me of your absence or of your being unprepared. When the combination of absences and instances of being unprepared exceeds three you will be sanctioned one grade deduction for each additional absence or instance of being unprepared. Should you accumulate more than ten instances, you will be dropped from the course. Students who have severe personal or family problems (e.g. child birth, funeral, death of relatives, major illnesses) must see me. Outside employment is never an excuse. Students anticipating absences for moot court, student conferences, etc. should plan to include those in the three that maybe taken for whatever reason.

You are expected to arrive for class on time just as you are expected to arrive for court and clients on time. I normally do not count tardiness as an absence. Frequent tardiness is, however, as inexcusable in class as it is in court. I do reserve the right to count tardiness as an absence and to tell chronically tardy students that they have a special responsibility to arrive on time.

EXAMINATION

There will be a three hour closed-book examination. It will be entirely essay. There will be no multiple-choice questions. All questions will be set in Oklahoma and governed by Oklahoma law. I will discuss it on the last day of class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

"The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the administration as early in the semester as possible. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173."