

Law and the Family Unit (Spring 2009)
Professor Aurore Victor
Mondays- 5:50-8:30 p.m.
Lewis Room 516

Course Description

This course introduces and explores the legal and theoretical issues surrounding the domestic relations of adults. Topics include, among others, the regulation of marriage eligibility, the legal treatment of spouses in an ongoing marriage, intimate nonmarital relationships, the constitutional right to privacy and procreation, domestic violence, divorce, and child custody and support. This course will also explore issues that emerge in the practice of family law.

The material in this course is drawn from traditional legal sources such as case law, statutes, and model rules. At times, the course may also include material generally drawn from social and behavioral sciences. Family law is a complex area of the law that overlaps with several other legal areas such as constitutional law, contract, and tort. Students are encouraged to identify and consider these complexities as they examine, and develop familiarity with, the course material.

Casebook and Supplement

The required texts for this course are available for purchase at the DePaul University Bookstore. The following texts are required:

Areen & Regan, *Family Law: Cases and Materials* (5th Ed.) and the Supplement.

Contact Information

I can be reached via e-mail at avictor3@depaul.edu. My office phone number is (312) 362-8734. My office is 825 in the O'Malley Building. I will hold office hours on Mondays from 3:00 -5:00 p.m. In addition to regular office hours, you may schedule an office appointment.¹ I encourage you to send me any comments or questions you have concerning the assigned readings or class any time during the semester.

Class Assignments and Class Preparation

The assigned readings must be completed prior to each class. For example, the assigned readings for Week No. 1 below must be completed before the first scheduled class for this course. To be properly prepared for each class, you will be required to be familiar with any assigned material as well as any material that you prepared for the previous class, but which we

¹ In order to schedule an appointment, please contact me via e-mail at the e-mail address listed above. Your e-mail should include a statement of (1) the topic/ scope of the requested conference and (2) at least two suggested dates and times during law school operating hours for the conference. Please note that in addition to in-person conferences, I am also willing to schedule telephone conferences.

did not cover. Each student is expected to: (1) carefully read the assignments for each class, including all assigned notes, statutes, and/or model rules and (2) be prepared to fully and analytically discuss the class assignments.

The syllabus will be available during the first class. Please note that there may be changes to the syllabus as the semester progresses.

First Week Assignments

Week 1: January 12, 2009

Introduction to Family Law: pages 2-10.

What is a Family: pages 10-38, skim pages 38 (beginning with the Rosabeth Mass Kanter excerpt) -57.