

Content Outline

Unit One: Introduction to Law

- A. Derivation of Law
 - 1. Common law
 - 2. Code of Hammurabi
 - 3. Defining Justice
 - 4. Law and values
 - 5. Identifying types of laws (criminal, civil, administrative, and “judge” made law)

- B. Court System
 - 1. Make up of federal and state court systems
 - 2. Original jurisdiction vs. appellate jurisdiction
 - 3. The Supreme Court and how it works

- C. Legal Processes
 - 1. Adversary system (judges, juries, and lawyers)
 - 2. Defendant / Respondent
 - 3. Plaintiff / Complainant
 - 4. Burden of proof (civil vs. criminal)
 - 5. Plea bargaining
 - 6. Litigation / legal remedy

Unit Two: Constitutional Law

- A. First amendment freedoms (suggested Supreme Court opinions to discuss and / or debate)
 - 1. Freedom of religion (Establishment Clause, Free Exercise Clause)
 - a. *Murray v. Curlett, 1963*
 - b. *Abington v. Schempp, 1963*
 - c. *Alabama v. Jaffree, 1985*
 - 2. Freedom of expression
 - a. Clear and present danger
 - 1.) *Schenck v. United States, 1919*
 - 2.) *Abrams v, United States, 1919*
 - b. “Fighting words” (*Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire, 1942*)
 - c. Public Order
 - 1.) *Terminello v. Chicago, 1949*
 - 2.) *Feiner v. New York, 1951*
 - d. Symbolic speech (*Tinker v. Des Moines, 1969*)
 - e. Libel / Slander
 - f. Protections / Restrictions of the Internet
 - 3. Other cases
 - a. *Reynolds v. United States*

b. *New York Times v. United States*

B. Privacy rights

1. Personal liberty and privacy
 - a. *Olmstead v. United States*
 - b. *Katz v. United States*
2. Lifestyles
 - a. Current trends
 - b. Relevant cases

C. Rights of the Accused

1. Amendments 4, 5, 6, 8, and 14
2. Due process
3. Self incrimination
4. Cruel and unusual punishment
 - a. Death penalty
 - b. Mandatory sentencing
 - c. Alternative sentencing options
5. Double jeopardy
6. Suggested Supreme Court cases
 - a. *Miranda v. Arizona*
 - b. *Gideon v. Wainwright*
 - c. *Escobedo v. Illinois*
 - d. *Goss v. Lopez*
 - e. *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*

Unit Three: Criminal Law

A. Introduction

1. The problem of crime
 - a. Scope of the problem
 - b. Causes of crime
 - c. Effects on the victim
2. Crime prevention

B. Criminal Acts

1. Types of crimes
 - a. Misdemeanor
 - b. Felony
2. Classification of crime
 - a. Crimes against persons
 - b. Crimes against property
 - c. Crimes against the public
3. Statistical Analysis (<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucreports.htm>)
 - d. Major reasons why people commit crimes
 - e. Methods used in crime reduction

- C. Sentencing
 - 1. Purpose of the criminal justice system
 - a. Retribution
 - b. Incarceration
 - c. Deterrence
 - d. Rehabilitation
 - 2. Defenses
 - a. Insanity
 - 1.) M’Naughton Rule
 - 2.) Durham Rule
 - b. Self defense
 - c. Necessity
 - d. Duress
 - 3. Suspended sentences
 - 4. Probation

Unit Four: Torts

- A. Introduction to Torts
 - 1. Purposes
 - 2. Definition of torts
 - 3. Types of tort cases
 - 4. Parties in tort law
 - a. Plaintiff (individual / class action)
 - b. Defendant
- B. Negligence
 - 1. Duty of due care
 - 2. Proximate cause
 - 3. *Res ipsa loquitur*
 - 4. Comparative vs. contributory negligence
(Note: Maryland currently follows contributory negligence doctrine.)
 - a. *Ryan v. New York Central Railroad*
 - b. *McPherson v. Buick Motor Car Corporation*
- C. Libel and slander
- D. Assault and battery
- E. Liability (product and strict liability)
 - 1. Assumption of risk
 - 2. Immunity to negligence
- F. Jurisdiction of courts in civil cases
 - 1. Federal vs. state court
 - 2. Small claims court

Unit Five: Juvenile Law

- A. Classification of juveniles
 - 1. Status offender
 - 2. Delinquent offender
- B. Philosophy of juvenile law
 - 1. Juvenile Court
 - 2. *Parens patriae*
- C. Rights of minors
 - 1. School based rights
 - 2. Community rights
- D. Juvenile legal, procedures
 - 1. Juvenile criminal legal procedures vs. adult criminal legal procedures
 - 2. CINS, PINS, or MINS
 - 3. Howard County Diversionary Program

Unit Six: Family Law

- A. Marriage Laws
 - 1. Legal requirements in Maryland
 - 2. Common law marriage
 - 3. Full faith and credit clause and the marriage contract
- B. Dissolution of Marriage
 - 1. Annulment
 - 2. Divorce
 - 3. Legal Separation
- C. Parent / child relationships
 - 1. Child abuse
 - 2. Child neglect
 - 3. Adoption procedures
- D. Parents legal liability for acts of children