Course: Family Law

Professor: Glesner Fines

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S): none

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S): Con Law II, Civ Pro I & II, Property I & II

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE;
Grade will be based on a combination of final examination and class participation and written exercises.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
The Family Law course explores the relationship of the law and the family. The primary goals of the course are:

1. Understand the vocabulary, concepts, and rules of the main areas of law designated "domestic relations" (marriage, divorce, custody, support) and the relationship between the concepts in this field and similar concepts in other fields of law.

2. Conceive the role of government in regulating private behavior, the effectiveness and limits of law in creating cultural understandings.

3. Recognize basic principles of family systems, and the impact of this understanding on delivery of legal services to clients in all fields of law.

COURSE CONTENT: See syllabus at Prof. Kisthardt’s website http://www1.law.umkc.edu/faculty/kisthardt/FamilyLaw/Fall2004/SyllabusFall2004.doc

COURSE MATERIALS:
Required: Family Law: Cases, Text, Problems, Third Edition, 1998 by Ira Mark Ellman, Arizona State University, Paul M. Kurtz, University of Georgia & Elizabeth S. Scott, University of Virginia

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:
If you plan on a career in any area of domestic relations, civil or criminal, or juvenile law, this course is essential. Since all attorneys are regularly appointed to act as representatives of parents or children in termination of parental rights proceedings, this course is an essential introduction to this area of practice as well. Finally, almost every attorney is asked to help out friends or family members in their domestic relations matters.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAM PREPARATION.
The Missouri Bar tests Missouri Family Law, however, I urge students to avoid taking Family Law solely for this purpose. The bar tested aspects of the subject can be readily picked up in a bar review course.