COURSE NAME: Estates & Trusts

CATALOGUE NUMBER: 8611

PROFESSOR: Belian

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Property I and II

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE BOOKS:


METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
Your grade in this course will be derived as follows:
10% Preparedness and participation in class
10% In-class practice exams
80% Comprehensive 3-hour final exam consisting of both multiple choice and essay questions.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
Much of “Property Law” consists of the rules governing transfers of property, including those transfers that occur at death. Estates & Trusts introduces students to the fundamental concepts and rules regarding such transfers as well as to their history and future. Not everyone will ever be arrested, some will never pay much attention to the standardized contracts that bind them, a few will never need to worry about family law or juvenile law, but everyone will die, making Estates & Trusts, a very odd and specialized field with many technical components, one of the most universally recognized, respected, and required areas of legal expertise.

COURSE CONTENT:
This course will introduce students to the three principal methods for transferring property at death – Inheritance, Wills, and Nonprobate Transfers (including Trusts). Students will learn the fundamental rules governing these transactions as well as significant variations in use today in the United States. In addition, students will learn the basic concepts governing probate administration and will be introduced briefly to general concepts of estate planning.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:
• Essential for any student interested in a career in estate planning.
• Extremely advisable for students interested in careers in general law, family law, and elder law.
• Very helpful for students interested in advising small business owners, individual tax payers,
immigrants and émigrés, exempt organizations, employee benefit plans, health care providers, and government program administrators.
• Inevitably useful for anyone negotiating contracts involving individuals, especially in personal injury claims.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION:
• E&T is not tested on the MBE.
• Subjects covered in this course are among those most frequently tested on the essay portion of most bar exams.
• Subjects covered in this course are also frequent subject areas for the Multistate Performance Test.