Course: Family Law 8751  
Professor: Barbara Glesner Fines

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S): none

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S): 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, class participation and written and oral exercises.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The Family Law course explores the relationship of the law and the family. By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Describe and apply the basic doctrines in the law designated "domestic relations" (marriage, divorce, custody, support), drawing upon Missouri and Kansas statutes and case law in particular.
2. Appreciate the role of attorneys in the representation of children and families.
3. Generate multiple avenues of problem solving and dispute resolution for typical family law issues, recognizing especially the limits of law in this field.
4. Students will be able to identify the impact of extra-legal influences on evolving areas of family law and the need for interdisciplinary approaches.

COURSE CONTENT:

Defining “Family”, Cohabitation, Entering Marriage, Duties and Responsibilities in the Ongoing Family, Dissolution, Child Custody & Support, Client representation, ADR Mechanisms used in Family law.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required:  
Harris, Teitelbaum & Carbone, FAMILY LAW (Third Ed. 2005)  
Family Law Supplement (available online)

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.