SCHEDULE

Law 8751 Family Law meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 -11:15 in Room 03 from Tuesday, August 19th to Thursday, November 20th.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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. Recognize basic principles of the role of the attorney as counselor, practice the skills necessary to that role, and perceive the impact of this understanding on delivery of legal services to clients in all fields of law.

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

TEXTBOOKS

- Cases and materials required for class will be available on line. Missouri statutes are available at [http://www.moga.state.mo.us/](http://www.moga.state.mo.us/) Missouri Supreme Court Rules can be found at [http://www.courts.mo.gov/](http://www.courts.mo.gov/)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance: Attendance is required, consistent with the law school's uniform attendance policy. Attendance requires preparation. Occasional inability to complete the assignments is understandable and excusable if I am notified before class; regular patterns of lack of preparedness will require excuse and make-up work and may be the basis for a reduction in final course grade.
Method of Grading and Appraisal of Student for Grade: Grade will be based on a final examination. I reserve the right to raise or lower grades to reflect class participation and preparation. Opportunities for additional credit on the final exam will be offered throughout the semester. These will be discussed in class as they arise.

GUIDELINES FOR CLASS DISCUSSIONS

The study of family law provides a unique opportunity to examine the interplay of societal change and the law. This course involves the study of controversial social, religious, racial, gender, political, and economic issues. Many students in the class will have had personal experiences of the topics explored in this class. For all of us, but especially for those of you who have immediate experience with these profoundly personal issues, it is difficult to distance ourselves from our own experiences to achieve some objectivity in evaluating opinions and ideas that run contrary to our own understanding. Nonetheless, we will do so.

- We will maintain a respectful, even formal if necessary, tone in our classroom discussions.

- Much of the learning that takes place will come from listening to others. We will listen carefully and respectfully to the ideas our colleagues offer. We will not hold side-bar conversations, interrupt, or pass notes while others are speaking. We will conduct ourselves in a professional manner. Full attention is expected and for this reason, the use of the Internet while in class other than that directly related to the discussion is not permitted. Students who access the internet for purposes other than class related matter will forfeit the privilege of laptop use.

- We will examine ideas not attack people.

- We will not personalize our disagreements or dissents and will try not to take personally the disagreements and dissents of others.

- We will contribute our ideas and questions to support and further the learning of the entire class.

Some students may find certain material very difficult emotionally. You are welcome to integrate personal experiences into class discussions where you believe it would enhance the learning of the class as a whole and you are, of course, always welcome to communicate with me, in person, by phone or via email, regarding your views and questions on family law.
ASSIGNMENTS

I. Introduction
The Lawyer – Client Relationship

II. Defining Family
1-7, 13-30

III. Entering into Marriage (2 classes) 176-218

IV. Alternatives to Marriage (2 classes) 229-45, 246-267, 280-283

V. Ownership of Property during Marriage 34-39, 44-51, 77-85, 63-67
Glesner Fines, *Ownership of Property during Marriage in Missouri*

VI. Legal Relationship of Parent – Child 839-841, 850-867

VII. Paternity 867-68, 868-877, 899-911
Skim Mo. Rev Stat. 210.818-852 (We will use these statutes to complete a Paternity Problem set)

VII. Adoption 943-946, 952-957, 957-61
Skim Mo. Rev. Stat. Chapter 453

VIII. Domestic Violence 113-118, 131-139
Mo. Rev. Stat. 565.074, 455.010, 455.050, 451.085
Prepare a Petition for an Order of Protection

IX. Divorce (2 classes)
Prepare the petition for a dissolution in Jackson County, Missouri for a hypothetical law school couple who married during their first year and are divorcing during their third year. No children, no property, some debt for both, no maintenance claim for either. (All the other forms you need for a dissolution are available at the Jackson County Court website but you won't find a petition there. Try writing one from scratch, just using the statutes.)

X. Property Division
   347-412
   Mo. Rev Stat. 452.330

XI. Characterization of Property
   412-30
   Study the Following Missouri cases on Property Division:
   1. In Re Studyvin, 779 S.W.2d 338 (Mo. App. 1989)
   2. Hoffman v. Hoffman, 676 S.W.2d 817 (Mo. 1984);
   3. Meservy v. Meservy, 841 S.W.2d 240 (Mo. App. 1992);
   4. Box v. Box (Mo. 1999)
   5. Tullier v. Tullier (Mo. 1999)

XII. “New Property”
   459-462, 476-491

XIII. Maintenance/ Spousal Support
   430-59, 549-566
   Mo. Rev. Stat. 452.335, 452.370

XIV. Child Custody (3 classes)
   632-643,649-656, 661-669 673-679 681-694
   Mo. Rev Stat. 452.375, 452.385
   Delong v. Delong (edited for class purposes)

XV. Visitation & Modification
   695-723
   Mo. Rev Stat. 452.410, 452.385, 452.377, 452.400

XVI. Child Support (2 classes)
Disabled Student Services
UMKC endeavors to make all activities, programs and services accessible to students with disabilities. A Campus Coordinator for Disabled Student Services is available to arrange for reasonable accommodations. If you need accommodations, it is important that you contact the Coordinator as soon as possible to arrange for providing appropriate documentation and the prescribing of reasonable accommodations in the classroom and for exams. For information call (816) 235-5696. Speech and hearing impaired use Relay Missouri, 1-800-735-2966 (TT) or 1-800-735-2466 (Voice.) For questions or further information, see Adela Fleming in the Law School Administrative Suite.