PSCI 321 Probate: Spring Semester, 2014; Monday's 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.

Instructor: Nobie Walker, Hunt County District Attorney's Office
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Available for Consultation Upon Request

Goals: The objective of this course is to gain a working understanding of the Probate and Administration of Estate process. This will include understanding the purpose and function of a will, the process of estate administration when an individual dies intestate, intestate succession, the participants in the probate process, requirements for a valid will, steps necessary to draft a valid will, the role of the personal representative or executor, proving up a will and/or administration before a court, and concluding probate. Ethical principles involved in probate matters will be discussed as well. During the course of the semester, each student will draft a valid Will and related documents. At the end of the semester, each student should be able to competently address a probate/administration matter from the drafting of the will to the conclusion of probate.

Assignments: (may be amended or modified as situations dictate)

January 13, 2014	Overview of Course, Hand out Fact Scenarios and Writing Assignments
January 20, 2014	No Class - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 27, 2014	"The Purpose and Need for a Will"
February 3, 2014	"Participants and the Proper Court"
February 10, 2014	"The Law of Succession"
February 17, 2014	"Wills: Validity Requirements"
February 24, 2014	"Preparing to Draft a Will"
March 3, 2014	First Exam
March 10, 2014	No Class - Spring Break
March 17, 2014	"Drafting and Executing a Will"
March 24, 2014	"Personal Representatives" Draft of Will and Related Documents Due
March 31, 2014	"Small Estate"
April 7, 2014	Second Exam
April 14, 2014	"Ethical Principles for Legal Assistants"
April 21, 2014	"Estate Administration"
April 28, 2014	Probate/Administration Writings Due Review for Final Exam
May 5, 2014	Final Exam

Exams will be multiple choice, short essay, and essay. The three (3) exams, (including the final) will be of equal value and make up 75% of the student's overall grade. Questions for the exams will be taken from classroom discussion and your text. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Writing assignments will be of equal value and make up 25% of the student's overall grade.

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Students with Disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti Discrimination law that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A & M University – Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone: (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax: (903) 468-8148
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