

**FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW**

FLORIDA BAR LAW AND SKILLS

(Fall 2016; Evening Division; Course No. 6966; Class No. 3902; Sec. No. 302)

SYLLABUS

- Class Time:** Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 p.m. – 9:40 p.m.
- Location:** Room 255
- Professor:** Carlos Woody, Esq., B.C.S.
City, County and Local Government Law
Deputy General Counsel
Orlando Utilities Commission
100 W. Anderson Street
Orlando, Florida 32801
(407) 434-2162
carlos.woody@famu.edu
- Required Text:** Florida Law Bar and Skills published by Barbri
Acing the Bar Exam (2008), Suzanne Darrow-Kleinhaus, Thompson/West
(ISBN 978-0-314-17706-3)
- Course description:** This is a four-credit hour course designed to give students training in bar exam essay writing skills and a survey of substantive material covering topics frequently tested on the Florida Bar Examination, including Florida Constitutional Law, Wills and Administration of Estates, Trusts, and Family Law. In addition to the black letter law, students will learn techniques to improve issue spotting and issue resolution as it pertains to answering examination questions posed in the essay format. Students will write a number of essay answers, receive feedback on those answers and learn self-critique techniques. The class will meet twice a week for one hour and forty minutes each class session. Each subject will include approximately six to eight hours of lecture, one hour of assessment under exam conditions and one hour of self-evaluation practice.
- Attendance:** Class will start promptly at 8:00 p.m. Any students who attempt to enter after the class begins will not be allowed into class and will be marked absent for that class period. Pursuant to law school policy, in order to be eligible to take the final examination and receive academic credit for this

course, a student must attend at least 80% of the classes. A student who attends fewer than 80% of the classes will automatically be dropped from the course and will be administratively assigned a grade of "F" for the course. At the beginning of each class I will pass out an attendance sheet. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that he or she has signed the attendance sheet. A student who has not signed the attendance sheet by the end of class will be counted as absent for that class session. It is the responsibility of each student to keep track of his or her attendance and to ensure that he or she has attended a sufficient number of classes to take the final examination. Please be aware that falsifying class attendance is a violation of the Student Conduct Code.

Class Participation: This is a black letter law course and therefore, it is not taught using the traditional case book approach, but rather it is taught ostensibly by lecture supplemented with previously released bar exam essay questions. The scope of the course material is exhaustive and in order to get through the materials without extraneous questions, all students are expected to have read the assigned reading prior to class and are expected to be prepared for each class. Further this is a bar prep course and is not to be used as a platform to seek legal advice for your own personal legal situations.

Grading: The final course grade will be based on a single 3-hour final examination given at the end of the semester. The format of the exam will be 3 essay questions or 2 essay questions and multiple choice questions, similar to those tested on the Florida Bar Exam, and will include any information in the assigned readings, covered in class, or posted by me on the course's TWEN page. The examination will be closed book and will be graded using the same grading protocol used by graders of the Florida Bar Exam and as such, some students may receive a grade lower than what they are accustomed to making. The professor reserves the right to change the format of the examination and, in his sole discretion, to administer a mid-term examination which shall account for no more than 20% of the final grade. The professor also reserves the right to grade selected in-class writing assignments and use them in conjunction with the final examination to determine the final course grade.

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., by appointment. Additional office hours are available upon request. I am also available to meet with students at my office, which is located at 100 W. Anderson Street, Orlando, Florida. Students wishing to meet with me should e-mail me with a requested date and time to meet. Students can also e-mail me with any questions regarding the course in lieu of an in-person meeting. If at any time you have a question about the course or the material covered, you should contact me.

University's ADA

Policy Statement: Individuals who need a reasonable accommodation must notify the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs at (850) 599-3076.

Non-Discrimination

Policy Statement: Florida A&M University College of Law does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, and veteran status as prohibited by State and Federal law in the administration of its education policies, admissions and placement policies, and other school administered programs. The University's Non-discrimination Policy Statement can be found at: <http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?EOP&NON-DISCRIMINATIONPOLICYSTATEMENT>

Course Calendar (Tentative)

Amendment: **This syllabus may be modified from time to time at the professor's sole discretion for the purpose of achieving the class objectives.**

Note: All Assignments and Class Meeting Agendas are Subject to Change.

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
Tuesday AUG 09	Welcome and Review of Syllabus. Introduction to the Florida Bar exam. A detailed look at topics tested on Florida Bar Exam Reading: ABE Chapter 1-3
Thursday AUG 11	Video – A Lawyer Walks into a Bar Reading: ABE Chapter 4-6
Tuesday AUG 16	Discussion of Video. Preliminary matters and Lifestyle considerations – An in-depth discussion on the financial, mental and physical preparation necessary to pass the Florida Bar Exam and other related concerns.
Thursday AUG 18	Introduction to Essay Writing for the Bar. Essay Writing Skills; Issue Spotting; Creating Framework and Protocols; Self-Evaluation Skills Reading: ABE Chapter 7-9
Tuesday AUG 23	Framework/Structure of Wills Substantive Lesson – Intestate Succession/Subsidiary Problems Common to Intestacy and Wills Reading: Pages 1-14
Thursday AUG 25	Substantive Lesson – Formal Requisites and Execution of Wills; Revocation of Wills Reading: Pages 15-34
Tuesday AUG 30	Substantive Lesson – Changes in Beneficiaries and Property After Will's Execution (Lapsed Gifts and Anti-Lapse Statute; Ademption) Reading: Pages 37-41
Thursday SEPT 1	In-Class Essay Writing and Review
Tuesday SEPT 6	Substantive Lesson – Restrictions on Power of Testation – Protection of Family/Children (Elective Share, Pretermitted Child, Homestead, Family Allowance, Exempt Personal Property Set-Aside) Reading: Pages 41-52
Thursday SEPT 08	Substantive Lesson – Will Contests; Essay Writing and Multiple Choice Questions - Wills Reading: Pages 52-60
Tuesday SEPT 13	Substantive Lesson – Probate and Estate Administration Reading: Pages 60-78

Thursday SEPT 15	Framework/Structure of Trusts Substantive Lesson – Introduction to Trusts, Express Private Trusts; Charitable and Honorary Trusts Reading: Pages 1-21
Tuesday SEPT 20	Substantive Lesson – Beneficiary Interest-Forfeiture, Lapse, and Transfer; Modification and Termination of Trust Reading: Pages 21-29
Thursday SEPT 22	Substantive Lesson – Trust Administration Reading: Pages 29-41
Tuesday SEPT 27	Substantive Lesson – Wills Substitutes; Trusts Arising As a Matter of Law – Resulting and Constructive Trusts; Protocols and In-class Essay Writing and Review - Trusts Reading: Pages 45-60
Thursday SEPT 29	Framework/Structure of Florida Constitutional Law Substantive Lesson - Concept of State Constitution; Declaration of Rights; In-Class Essay Issue Spotting (time-permitting) Reading: Pages 1-9
Tuesday OCT 4	Substantive Lesson – Operation of Legislature; Operation of Judiciary; Separation of Powers Reading: Pages 13-34 In-Class Essay Issue Spotting (time-permitting)
Thursday OCT 6	Substantive Lesson – Local Government; Taxation and Finance Reading: Pages 40-54 In-Class Essay Issue Spotting (time-permitting) Law
Tuesday OCT 11	Substantive Lesson – Homestead; Eminent Domain and Sovereign Immunity; Misc. Provisions of the Florida Constitution; Amending the Florida Constitution Reading: Pages 55-64
Thursday OCT 13	Protocols and Issue Spotting Essays – Florida Constitutional Law
Tuesday OCT 18	Issue Spotting Essays – Florida Constitutional Law
Thursday OCT 20	Issue Spotting Essays – Florida Constitutional Law
Tuesday OCT 25	Framework/Structure of Family Law Substantive Lesson – Marital Agreements; Entry into Marriage; Rights Within Marriage; Termination of Marriage Reading: Pages 1-14
Thursday OCT 27	Substantive Lesson - Termination of Marriage; Financial Consequences of Divorce – Equitable Distribution and Alimony Reading: Pages 17-29
Tuesday NOV 1	Protocols and In-class Essay Writing and Review – Family
Thursday NOV 3	Substantive Lesson – Parental Responsibility, Time-Sharing, and Child Support Reading: Pages 29-43
Tuesday NOV 08	Substantive Lesson – Paternity, Adoption Reading: Pages 51-64
Thursday NOV 10	Course Wrap-up
Tuesday NOV 15	Veteran’s Day Make-up – <i>Friday</i> class schedule
Tuesday	FINAL EXAM – TBA. <i>Please Note:</i> At the time of drafting this syllabus, the final exam schedule has not been released. EXAM DATES FOR ON-CAMPUS FINAL EXAMS ARE SET ADMINISTRATIVELY. FACULTY DOES NOT HAVE THE DISCRETION TO CHANGE THE ASSIGNED DATES OR TIMES OF THE FINAL EXAM. Time and Location of Final Exam is subject to change at the discretion of the Administration. Please pay close attention to all postings and notices provided by the administration regarding the Final Exam Schedule.

