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Fall 9-1-2005

# LEG 270T.01: Civil Litigation

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**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
Prepared by T. Stanton**

**Fall Semester Calendar 2005  
Civil Litigation (LEG 270)**

Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday: 9:40 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Room HB 06.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Thomas Stanton. I can be reached at 243-7850 or e-mail me at Tom.Stanton@umontana.edu. My office is located in the Northeast corner of the Business Administration building, East Campus. Although office hours are posted I can usually be reached before, between and after classes. (See schedule on office door).

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Introduction to the rules governing civil litigation involving the general nature of how lawsuits arise including client interviews and data gathering, pleading and practice from the filing of suit to file preparation for trial, and also core considerations of ethics and professionalism.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Identify sequence and nature of the rules governing civil litigation.
2. Synthesize the reasons for and the nature of the differences between various jurisdictions.
3. Become familiar with the nature of the client interview and the necessary considerations for case evaluation and strategy.
4. Draft pleadings and motions.
5. Explore the nature, scope and importance of discovery.
6. Review the reasons behind and the operation of the rules of evidence.
7. Develop litigation file organization skills.

**TEXT:**

Title: *Fundamentals of Litigation for Paralegals*, 3rd Ed.  
Author(s): Mauet and Maerowitz  
Publisher: Aspen Law & Business

**Outline for Fall 2005 Semester**

Week 1

Tuesday, August 30, 2005: Introduction and Discussion of Syllabus.

Thursday, September 1, 2005: Explanation of Civil Lit Diagram and abbreviations.

Week 2

Tuesday, September 6, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 1, Introduction to Litigation

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Week 3

Tuesday, September 13, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 2, Informal Fact Gathering and Investigation

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Week 4

Tuesday, September 20, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 3, Case Evaluation and Strategy

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Draft Witness Interview Checklist

Week 5

Tuesday, September 27, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 4, Parties and Jurisdiction

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Draft Litigation Time Table

Week 6

Tuesday, October 4, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 5, Pleadings

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Draft Complaint in Civil Action

Week 7

Tuesday, October 11, 2005: No Class, Instructor Absence

Thursday, October 13, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 5 (Continued)

Draft Answer to Complaint

Week 8

Tuesday, October 18, 2005: \*\*\*Midterm Examination\*\*\*

Thursday, October 20, 2005: No Class

Draft Motion for Extension of Time or Motion for Continuance

Week 9

Tuesday, October 25, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 6, Law and Motions

Thursday, October 27, 2005 Discussion: Chapter 7, Motion Practice

Week 10

Tuesday, November 1, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 8, Provisional Remedies

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Draft Motion for Default Judgment and Draft of Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings

Week 11

Tuesday, November 8, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 9, Evidence

Thursday, November 10, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 9 (Continued)

Week 12

Tuesday, November 15, 2005: Discussion Chapter 10

Thursday, November 17, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 10 (Continued)

Week 13

Tuesday, November 22, 2005: Discussion: Chapter 10 (Continued)

Thursday, November 24, 2005: No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Draft Definitions and Instructions for Interrogatories

Week 14

Tuesday, November 29, 2005: Discussion: Chapters 11, 12, 13,14 (Overview)

Thursday, December 1, 2005

Draft Interrogatories

Week 15

Tuesday, December 6, 2005: Review for Final Examination

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Week 16 **\*\*Finals Week\*\***

Final Exam, per U.M./C.O.T. Final Schedule

## GRADING

### Scale:

- A: 100-93%
- B: 92-85%
- C: 84-77%
- D: 76-70%
- F: below 70%

### Breakdown

Exams: Count. for 90 % of final grade.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given at any time; announced or unannounced. Some of the quizzes may be graded in class for no value. Some of the quizzes will be collected and graded for value toward final grade.

Make up quizzes may be given at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Projects: Count for 10 % of final grade. All projects are due at beginning of class. If late, automatic 50% reduction in value.

Absences: The instructor reserves the right to lower grades for excessive absences.

Extra Credit: Opportunities may arise where point credit can be given for independent projects as developed between student and instructor.

Participation: Every student is expected to participate and/or be prepared to participate in class discussions. Accordingly, class participation can positively or negatively affect the student's grade.

Other: If any student requires special consideration for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to discuss the matter prior to any situation that might give rise to the special consideration requested.

The instructor reserves the right to alter or amend any part of this proposed outline at any time during the semester.