

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI BUSINESS SCHOOL
May Summer InterSession 2019

Introduction to the Legal System and 1L Year

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Course Introduction and Objectives

The course is designed to educate students about the basics of the American legal system and to prepare them for the first year of law school. The course will expose students to research databases, such as Lexis Advance, and teach them how to perform thorough legal research. This research will be used to draft and argue basic motions throughout the course. Students will also learn how to read and outline cases and take an issue-spotter exam, as well as visit federal court where they will observe hearings and a trial.

Required Materials

Lexis Advance subscription
Fischl & Paul, *Getting to Maybe* (1999)

Attendance and Other Class Policies

Course Website: Your professor maintains a course website on Blackboard at <http://www.courses.miami.edu>, which may include course information, including but not limited to: assignments, important announcements, useful external links, handouts, other course documents, and scores and grades. All registered students are automatically “enrolled” in the course. Students should check the website before and after each class session and are responsible for all information posted there.

Safe Assignment: Students should upload writing assignments to the “Safe Assignments” link on Blackboard. All submissions must be in Word format; an assignment submitted in any other format will not count. Safe Assignment will compare each submission against both the University’s database and the Internet to detect plagiarism. If you encounter any problems with Safe Assignment or Blackboard, please contact the Blackboard help desk.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory, and a student who fails to attend at least 80% of class sessions has not completed the course and will receive an F and be required to re-take the course. It is impossible for a student to make up a missed class by analyzing the readings and/or preparing the assignments. A student must attend the section in which he or she is enrolled; being present in another section does not satisfy the attendance requirement. It is expected that a student attend every class, arriving on time. Classes missed due to observances of religious holy days will be excused from the 80% attendance rule if a student notifies the professor of the anticipated absence in writing no later than by the third class. The professor has the discretion to determine how the student may make up the missed work.

Arriving Late, Leaving Early, Coming & Going: Students are expected to arrive on time and stay until the end of the class. Students may enter class late only with the professor's permission and only if they can do so without disrupting the class. Students may not leave and re-enter the class once class has started except by permission from the professor and only if they can do so without disrupting the class. Arriving late or leaving class early may result in a grade penalty at the discretion of the professor.

Incompletes: A student will receive an "Incomplete" (I) only when the student is unable to complete the course for a verifiable non-academic reason and the Incomplete must be approved in advance by the Department Chair. The Department Chair will not approve an Incomplete in the absence of a verifiable reason for not completing the course.

Extra Credit: This course does not allow extra credit assignments in accordance with the policies of the University.

Legal Advice: Please do not ask the professor for legal advice or lawyer referrals. If you require legal advice or representation, call or visit the Florida Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at 1-800-342-8011 or the Dade County Bar Association's free Legal Line at 866-596-0339.

Accessibility: The University of Miami is committed to providing instruction to students of all abilities. Accommodations will be provided by the professor or through the Office of Disabilities for students who have a documented disability and are registered with the Office of Disabilities. Accommodations will not be made for students who have not registered. The accommodations letter must be presented to the professor at the beginning of the semester during office hours at least two weeks prior to the requested accommodation. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the professor to coordinate any accommodations. A student should contact the professor or the Office of Disability Services at (305) 284-2374 for more information.

General Behavior: Students will conduct themselves with respect and professionalism toward faculty, students, and others and observe all rules set forth in the Syllabus. Students who are unable to follow the rules may be asked to leave the classroom and/or incur a grade penalty.

Electronic Devices: Use of a laptop or tablet PC is permitted for class functions such as taking notes or following lecture notes only if its use does not distract the student or other students. A student who is checking messages, playing games, or browsing the Internet is not considered to be attending class. Students who are unable to follow the rules may be asked to leave the classroom and/or incur a penalty in their Class Participation grade or other grade.

Recordings: In order to provide feedback and insight into your developing presentation skills, you will have an opportunity to review a video of your presentations. Your enrollment in the class constitutes permission to be filmed. These videos will be used strictly for educational purposes.

Students may not record (audio or visual) class or any portion thereof or transmit or distribute any such recording without the express written permission of the professor. Such permission would require that: (1) all students in the class and any guest speakers must have been informed in advance that recording may occur, (2) such recording only be used for individual or group study by students enrolled in the same class, (3) such recording may not be reproduced or uploaded to publicly-accessible web environments, and (4) such recording may not be exchanged or distributed for commercial purposes, for compensation, or for any

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other purpose other than study by students enrolled in the class. In addition, students may not copy, exchange, or distribute any course materials for any non-educational purpose (including, without limitation, commercial purposes or for compensation.)

Violation of this policy is a violation of the Undergraduate Student Honor Code.

Evaluation Criteria

Students will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Participation 15%
- Motion 25%
- Final exam 30%
- Oral argument 30%

Policy Exceptions: In the event of undue hardship, the professor has the discretion to grant a reasonable exception to the policies set forth in this Syllabus.

Academic Integrity

This program does not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. This policy is required to encourage consistent ethical behavior among students and to foster fair competition. Personal integrity is expected and respected at the University of Miami. The Undergraduate Student Honor Code is in force at all times. A professor who has reasonable cause to suspect an infraction may report it to the Honor Council.

Group work is allowed only with the express permission of the professor or as provided in this Syllabus. Unless the professor indicates that group work is appropriate, each student must do his or her own work for every graded assignment. All written assignments must be exclusively the work of the student. With the exception of the University Writing Center, students may not receive any outside assistance.

Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Check Blackboard regularly for announcements and changes. Readings must be completed before each class.

DATES	TOPICS
Class 1 May 13, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro to legal system (9-10am)• Intro to 1L classes (10-11am)• Intro to legal research (11-12pm)• Lunchbreak (12-1pm)• Legal research exercise (1-2pm)• Intro to case outlines (2-3pm)• Rising 2L panel (3-4pm)

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Class 2 May 14, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap of intro material (9-10am)• Intro to legal terms/processes (10-10:30am)• Research exercise (10:30-11am)• Intro to con law (11-12pm)• Lunchbreak (12-1pm)• Con law case discussion (1-2pm)• Con law oral argument (2-3pm)• Public/private sector attorneys panel (3-4pm)
Class 3 May 15, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap of con law (9-10am)• Intro to law and three branches of government and federal agencies (10-10:30am)• Research exercise (10:30-11am)• Intro to property (11-12pm)• Lunchbreak (12-1pm)• Property case discussion (1-2pm)• Property oral argument (2-3pm)• Litigators panel (3-4pm)
Class 4 May 16, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap of property (9-10am)• Intro to legal documents (10-10:30am)• Research exercise (10:30-11am)• Intro to contracts (11-12pm)• Lunchbreak (12-1pm)• Contracts case discussion (1-2pm)• Contracts oral argument (2-3pm)• Transactional attorneys panel (3-4pm)

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Class 5 May 17, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap of contracts (9-10am)• Intro to motion practice (10-10:30am)• Research exercise (10:30-11am)• Intro to con law (11-12pm)• Lunchbreak (12-1pm)• Con law case discussion (1-2pm)• Con law oral argument (2-3pm)• Mock exam (3-4pm)
Class 6 May 21, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motions due at 9am• Fieldtrip to federal court (9-4pm)
Class 7 May 22, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral arguments (9-12pm)• Lunchbreak (12-1pm)• Final exam (1-4pm)