**Law 6930: 2 Credit Hours**

**Economics of the Family**

**Syllabus**

Prof. Willis

Office: 331

Phone: 352-273-0680

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00 (Tax Timing); Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00 (Family Law).

Email: [willis@law.ufl.edu](mailto:willis@law.ufl.edu); best way to contact is through Canvas.

Do not be hindered by listed office hours: we must post two hours per course; but I do not restrict you to those: it is a *bureaucratic formality*. *Reponse times between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. may be limited.* (I’m not kidding: some people complain about dilatory responses during those times!).

**Required:**

* **Course Materials**. Available on Canvas. UF places you into Canvas: I have ***nothing*** to do with it. If you add the course, the process may take a day or two. **Nothing is due during the drop-add period, so do not fear getting behind**. Relax.

**Course Objectives:**

* We cover an overview of Florida Family Law and a detailed view of money issues: who gets what via alimony, child support, and property division. We look at both equitable distribution and community property states, with a focus on Florida.

**Course Description:** same as the objectives above.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* Upon completion, a student should understand how to determine income, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities for family law purposes and how to determine who gets what.

**Preparation:**

* Students should expect to spend, on average, approximately two hours preparing for every hour of class, according to ABA and University guidelines.

**Participation and Attendance:**

* I enjoy questions and try to answer all. Canvas has easy-to-use ways to communicate with me: *please use them*.
* Canvas has Discussion topics. Strong participation can affect your grade.
* Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are not recorded as absent if they come in late. A student who fails to meet the attendance requirement will be dropped from the course. The law school's policy on attendance can be found [here](https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies#:~:text=co%2Dcurricular%20activities.-,Attendance,regular%20and%20punctual%20class%20attendance.&text=UF%20Law%20policy%20permits%20dismissal,of%2012%20credits%20per%20semester.). In addition, Professor Willis will describe his attendance policy in the first class and on Canvas. The first two sentence of this paragraph were added by the Administration and not by Professor Willis.

**ACCOMODATIONS**

* Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Resources (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/).  The UF Office of Disability Resources will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Law School Office of Student Affairs when requesting accommodation.

# **Student Course Evaluations:**

* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

# **Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

* Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>
* You may not work with other persons on the exam, Quizzes (other than for installation of materials) or Assignments to be submitted unless clearly authorized.

**Exam and Evaluation:**

* The Final Examination is open book, which includes anything written (printed or electronic). You may *not* work with another person. If you copy something from a source, you should cite or link to it.
* Your grade will be based 80% on the final exam and 20% on class participation and Canvas Quizzes/Assignments (***these are announced on Canvas and are not on the Syllabus***). You are expected to read Announcements and to regularly look at Canvas for Quizzes/Assignments. I expect most students will receive most participation and Quiz points based on reasonable attempts, as well as responses to my comments. Exceptional participation may result in a half-letter grade bump. You ***must*** pay attention to Canvas deadlines for Quizzes/Assignments.
* The law school policy on delay in taking exams can be found at: <http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#12>

# **UF Law Grading Policies:**

**Grade Points Grade Points Grade Points**

A (Excellent) 4.0 C+ 2.33 D- 0.67

A- 3.67 C (Satisfactory) 2.00 E (Failure) 0.0

B+ 3.33 C- 1.67

B (Good) 3.00 D+ 1.33

B- 2.67 D (Poor) 1.00

The law school grading policy is available at: <http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#9>. **The grading policy generally does not apply to LL.M. courses**.

**UF Covid Policies**

Many students will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions. I may take noncompliance into account when grading students or determining if a student may remain in the course.

* You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. You also will no longer be permitted on the UF Law campus. Finally, Dean Inman will also report your noncompliance to the relevant state board of bar examiners.
* This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
* Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
* Be mindful of how to properly enter and exit the classroom.  Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
* If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), please do not come to campus or, if you are already on campus, please immediately leave campus. Please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions about when you are able to return to campus.  <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect/covid-19-exposure-and-symptoms-who-do-i-call-if/>.
* Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.”

**Class Discussions and Recordings**

* Students may not take, circulate, or post photos or videos of classroom discussions, whether they are in-person, hybrid, or completely online. Students failing to follow this rule will be referred to the College of Law Honor Code Council and the University’s Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.”

**Week One: Introduction**

* In the first class, I will introduce the course and determine the background, if any, students have in family law.

**We will cover the following topics in the course. The first *three* topics will take about two weeks: they are an overview of a basic family law course, a procedure course, and some constitutional law. Many issues will be a review for all of you. I will send announcements via Canvas regarding cases/statutes/articles to read. We must move quickly through these topics because they are not the focus of this course.**

**Child Support, Alimony, Property Division, Tax issues and Marriage Contracts should each take about two weeks. Expect some overlap among them.**

**Heartbalm Actions will take one week.**

**Marriage:**

* **Right to marry.**
* **Factors for a valid marriage.**
* **Void Marriages.**
* **Voidable Marriages.**
* **Presumptions regarding marriage.**
* **Full Faith and Credit and Comity.**
* **Choice of Law and Conflict of Law.**
* **Common Law Marriage.**

**Divorce:**

* **Grounds.**
* **Jurisdiction.**
* **Full Faith and Credit.**
* **Annullment.**

**Jurisdiction**

* **Due Process notice without jurisdiction.**
* **Personal and when needed.**
* **Long-arm: when appropriate and procedure for it.**
* **In rem and quasi in rem.**
* **Venue.**

**Child Support:**

* **Computation in Florida.**
* **Others states, as requested.**
* **Outside the Guidelines.**
* **Modification.**
* **Income Determination.**
* **Use of Assets as a Factor.**

**Alimony:**

* **Types.**
* **Modification.**
* **Income Determination and other Factors.**

**Property Division:**

* **Property rights during marriage.**
* **Property rights upon death.**
* **Property rights upon dissolution.**
* **Jurisdiction for property division.**

**Tax Consequences:**

* **Alimony.**
* **Child Support.**
* **Property transfers during marriage and incident to divorce.**

**Marriage Contracts:**

* **Formalities and Disclosures.**
  + **Divorce.**
  + **Probate.**
* **Before marriage, during marriage.**
* **Topics.**

**Heartbalm Actions**