



# Bethesda University

730 North Euclid Street, Anaheim, California 92801 Tel: (714)517-1945, Fax: (714)683-1440

## GS 172 INTRODUCTION TO US LAW AND GOVERNMENT Fall 2015

Professor R. Sachdev	
Class Hour: Wednesdays 9:30am-12:00pm	Classroom: TBD
Office: 307	Phone: 714-683-1401
Office Hours/ Consultation: Available by appointment	E-mail: rajeev.sachdev@buc.edu
TA: TBD	Credit Unit: 3

### A. Bethesda University Mission Statement

Bethesda University is a Christ-centered community of higher education preparing Korean/English speaking men and women with professional competence, academic excellence, and spiritual integrity to be servant leaders in the Church, community, and global society.

### B. Relationship of Course to Bethesda University's Mission

This course is designed to provide knowledge and understanding of the substantive criminal law along with the ethical and legal issues relating to criminal law confronting legal professionals in the modern world.

### C. Course Description

The course provides an overview of various areas of US law, of the U.S. legal profession, and of the U.S. judicial process. It is a basic introduction to the common and statutory law of the U.S. federal and state systems and provides an understanding of how the law works. The course also provides an overview of the US Constitution and the system of US government including structure, institutions and functions.



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## D. Course Objectives & Student Outcomes

By the end of the course, each student is expected to be able to demonstrate the following:

### Expected Student Outcomes with Categorization (Spiritual, Intellectual, Socio-Emotive, Vocational)

Outcome 1) Understand the basics of how US law, the legal system and US Government works (Vocational)

Outcome 2) Apply ethical rules in law and common legal subject scenarios; discuss Christian ethical concepts (Spiritual, Intellectual, Socio-Emotive, Vocational)

Outcome 3) Examine and interpret applicable law in common legal subject areas (Intellectual, Socio-Emotive, Vocational)

Outcome 4) Understand the role of law, including case law, as well the importance of secondary sources in common legal subject areas (Intellectual, Socio-Emotive, Vocational)

Outcome 5) Analyze common legal scenarios and take a legal position (Intellectual, Socio-Emotive, Vocational)

Outcome 6) Understand how to recognize and identify certain legal issues (Intellectual, Socio-Emotive, Vocational)

Outcome 7) Prepare certain basic legal documents, forms, or paperwork (Vocational)

### Assessments tied to above Objectives

<u>Assessment Method</u>	<u>Outcomes Covered</u>
Class Discussions	Outcomes 1)2)3)4)5)6)7)
Assignments	Outcomes: 1)2)3)4)5)6)7)8)
Project/Presentation	Outcomes 2)3)4)6)7)8)
Tests and Quizzes	Outcomes: 1)2)3)4)5)6)7)
Final Exam	Outcomes: 1)2)3)4)5)6)7)

## E. Teaching/Learning Methods

A variety of learning methods will be adopted including lecture, class discussions, group work, projects, reports/essays, quizzes, exams and other methodology.





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## H. Course Calendar/Schedule, include the following (subject to revision)

(Please be sure to read the chapter being discussed, ahead of the class in which it will be covered)

N	Date	Theme	Reading	Assignments (Tentative schedule only)
1	8/26/15	Introduction and Legal Ethics	Ch 1 and 2	-Ice Breaker: One minute Networking Introductions -Resolutions -Pass the Marker
Last Day to Request Add/Drop is Friday of First Week				
2	9/2/15	Sources of US Law and Judicial System	Ch 3 and 4	Quiz 1 (5%)
3	9/9/15	Civil Procedure and Relief Limitations	Ch 5 and 6	Assignment 1 Due (5%)
4	9/16/15	Remedies	Ch 7	
5	9/23/15	Criminal Law and Procedure	Ch 8	
6	9/30/15	Family Law	Ch 9	Assignment 2 Due (10%)
7	10/7/15	Contracts and Torts	Ch 10 and 11	Real Life in the Classroom or Field Trip
8	10/14/15	Project Work		
Last Day to Request Grade Withdrawal "W" is Friday of 8 <sup>th</sup> Week				
9	10/21/15	Property and Administrative Law	Ch 12 and 13	Project 1 (10%)
10	10/28/15	ADR – Alternative Dispute Resolution	Ch 14	
11	11/4/15	US Government		Test (15%)
12	11/11/15	US Government		Guest Lecture tbd
13	11/18/15	US Government		Project and Presentation (20%)
14	11/25/15	THANKSGIVING BREAK- tbd		
15	12/2/15	Review		Outcomes Discussion
Last Day to Request Grade Incomplete "I" is Friday of 15 <sup>th</sup> Week				
16	12/7/15- 12/11/15 (tbd)	Final (25%)		

## I. Assignments

There will be various written assignments that will be given out during the semester. You must reference all sources you use in all work submitted. Use any acceptable referencing method. Ask for assistance should you need resources and examples of referencing.



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## J. Evaluation/Assessment Rationale for Grade Determination

### 1. Grade Assessment

Assignments X 4	45%
Quizzes/Tests	20%
Class Participation	10%
Final	<u>25%</u>
Total Possible Points	100

### 2. Grade definition

A	Excellent
B	Good
C	Satisfactory
D	Poor
F	Failure

### 3. Grade scale

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points
A	95-100	4.0
A-	90-94	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	84-86	3.0
B-	80-83	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	74-76	2.0
C-	70-73	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	64-66	1.0
D-	60-63	0.7
F	59 or below	0

#### ASSESSMENT RATIONALE

In this course, learning is tied to learning outcomes. Students will be assessed based upon meeting course objectives. Students working hard to achieve higher grades will be expected to demonstrate a higher level of analysis and novel application within the assessment components of the course.



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## **K. Course Policies**

### 1. Attendance, Preparation, and Participation:

All students are expected to attend class, read their assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussions and group work.

Ten percent (10%) of your grade is based on participation. This grade is based on your Attendance, participation in class, contributing to discussions, answering questions, raising questions, and positive participation as an individual and in groups.

Missing class work, quizzes and tests will affect your overall grade.

### 2. Deadlines:

Assignments are due as instructed. Late assignments are not acceptable unless special circumstances exist. If accepted, one week late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade. Quizzes and Tests can be made up only if approved and valid reason and documentation is provided. The final exam must be taken as scheduled at the end of the semester, without exception, unless approval is granted.

### 3. Advance Assistance and Accommodations:

If you need any assistance or accommodations, please check with the professor as soon as possible. It is important not to wait until it is too late. It is your duty to advise the Professor and School of any accommodations you require along with how you think any requested accommodations may be fulfilled.

### 4. Assignment Options:

See Professor

### 5. Make up work:

Only if pre-approved by professor.

### 6. Extra-credit work:

TBA, if applicable.

### 7. Emergency procedures:

Contact Professor, or School if professor is not available.



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8. Other policies on Withdrawal and Grade Permanence, Academic Integrity, and Appeals and Grievance procedures refer to the Student Handbooks and Catalog.

## **L. Support Services; No Legal Advice**

Please check with school and professor for support services. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL ADVICE PROVIDED BY PROFESSOR OR THE SCHOOL IN THIS COURSE OR AT ANYTIME. Please ask for career help, although Professor and School are not your future employer and you need to ensure that you yourself check all requirements for your anticipated career path early on. Do not rely on statements made by anyone, rather check for yourself or take outside professional help.

## **M. Bibliography**

Schubert , Introduction to Law and the Legal System, Cengage, 2015 Print