

PALOMAR COLLEGE  
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR  
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

  X   Transfer course              X   A.A. degree applicable course  
(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** PLS 245/LS 245 Civil Litigation I

**UNIT VALUE:** 3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:** 48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:** Appropriate language skills.

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITE:** PLS 121/LS 121 Introduction to Law

**COREQUISITE:** None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** None.

**SCOPE OF COURSE:** The basic principles of civil procedures as they apply to jurisdiction, venue and pleadings required from both complainant and defense as viewed within the California Court System.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Successful students will

1. distinguish between subject matter and personal jurisdiction;
2. distinguish the difference between venue and jurisdiction;
3. demonstrate the skills necessary in the preparation of pleadings and their appropriate respective courts in the practice of civil litigation;
4. identify and evaluate the basic principles that comprise defaults and default judgments both voluntary and mandatory;
5. demonstrate the ability to read, analyze and brief case law in its appropriate form;

6. draft in complete court-ready format the proper complaints, cross complaints, answers and other motions.

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

1. Litigation overview
2. Initiating the client's relationship
3. Courts in America
  - a. Federal courts in California
  - b. California State courts
4. Jurisdiction
  - a. Subject mater jurisdiction
  - b. Personal jurisdiction
5. Introduction to pleadings
6. Complaints and cross-complaints
7. Calendaring of pleadings

**REQUIRED READING:**

Luten, Susan Burnett. California Civil Litigation. 3rd edition.  
Los Angeles: West Publishing, 1995.

California Legal Assistant Handbook. James Publishing, Inc.

**SUGGESTED READING:** None.

**REQUIRED WRITING:**

Students are required to draft and format the appropriate pleadings at the required intervals throughout the litigation. Pleadings will be between six to ten pages in length.

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

In addition to the required writing, students will be studying chapter assignments, notes, and preparing for quizzes and tests.