

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 290/LS 290 Contemporary Legal Issues

UNIT VALUE: 2

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 32

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: PLS 250/LS 250 Legal Research and Writing

COREQUISITE:

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:

SCOPE OF COURSE:

Contemporary legal issues will be explored by leading experts in the field via TV broadcasts. Seminars will be conducted for the purpose of further developing legal issues and completing a research project. Students will be encouraged to submit research projects to AAFPE for publication in the American Association for Paralegal Education Law Journal. This course will be team taught to maximize individual student contact. This capstone course focuses on advanced legal writing, analysis and research.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES: Successful students will

1. apply advanced legal research skills;

2. apply advanced analysis and writing skills;
3. identify and prepare a research strategy;
4. synthesize cases and authorities;
5. prepare a legal memorandum draft and final document.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

1. Role of the paralegal in legal writing and research.
2. Briefing and synthesizing cases.
3. Research plan and strategy.
4. Outlining and organizing a memorandum.
5. Refining legal issues.
6. Writing and presenting the legal memorandum.

REQUIRED READING:

Yelin, Andrea B. The Legal Research and Writing Handbook, A Basic Approach for Paralegals. Boston: Little Brown and Co., 1996.

SUGGESTED READING: None.

REQUIRED WRITING: A legal memorandum, case briefs, and research mythologies typically several 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 studying textbook assignments, reviewing lecture notes and required writings, students will view TV broadcasts.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes No

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction
- video conference (live instruction)

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Final grades are based on research mythologies, 400 points, and writing project, 400 points, for a total of 800 points. Final grades will be computed as follows:

90% X 800 =	720+ =	A
80% X 800 =	640+ =	B
70% X 800 =	560+ =	C
60% X 800 =	480+ =	D
	479- =	F

Research mythologies	50%
Legal memorandum and case briefs	50%

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes No Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Angelo Corpora, Ext. 2501.