

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PLST 220 CIVIL PRACTICE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the study of the rules and principles governing the process by which courts adjudicate civil disputes. The subject matter covered includes study of the judicial process and the relationship between procedural and substantive law; pleadings; principles of jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over persons and subject matter; service of process and allocation of jurisdiction between state and federal court systems; and the discovery of evidence.

RATIONALE

Every lawsuit involves two primary and equally important components: substantive law that governs the litigants' rights and obligations, and rules and principles that govern how the court will apply the substantive law. This course's primary focus is the latter. Because mastery of civil procedure enables lawyers to plot sound strategy for their clients, it is essential to being an effective legal assistant and to being fully prepared to provide the necessary guidance. Moreover, the law of civil procedure represents our judicial systems' best efforts to provide for fair and just resolution of disputes; therefore, this course emphasizes the need for litigants' strong commitment to operate with "the rules" to achieve justice, integrity, and civility.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain general principles of civil litigation.
- B. Choose the mode of discovery in a civil lawsuit that achieves litigation goals and strategies.
- C. Evaluate various litigation strategies as they relate to a client's best interests.
- D. Apply Christian principles of ethical and moral conduct to achieve justice and fairness.
- E. Classify the elements that comprise a complaint, or petition, as well as answers that comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and other governing principles of civil procedure.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 300 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 150 words.
- D. Article Reviews (2)

The student will submit brief reviews discussing current news articles related to a trial or other actions that directly relate to the subject matter of civil litigation. News articles used for this assignment must come from the newspaper, a news program, or some other reputable news source (either traditional such as a newspaper or news magazine, or from a reputable online source). Each review must be in current Bluebook format and be 1–2 full pages, double-spaced.
- E. Written Exercises (4)

The student will write a paper of at least 2 pages in current Bluebook style. The student must have at least 1 work cited in addition to citing the textbook. The student is also required to follow the instructions for each of the 5 individual writing assignments.

Draft Complaint

The student will select a featured case study from the textbook to prepare a draft summons and complaint to be filed in his/her local federal court. This work must total a minimum of 5 pages and be written in current Bluebook style. The textbook must be cited according to Bluebook standards. The student is required to use the course textbook.
- F. Quizzes (5)

Each quiz is composed of 25 randomized multiple-choice and true/false questions. They

will cover each module/week's respective textbook reading. The student will have 1 hour to complete each open-book/open-notes quiz.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 50 pts ea)	100
Article Reviews (2 at 50 pts ea)	100
Written Exercises (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Draft Complaint	150
Quizzes (5 at 50 pts ea)	250
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PLST 220

Textbook: Goldman & Hughes, *Civil Litigation* (2015).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Goldman & Hughes: chs. 1–3 2 presentations 7 websites	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Quiz 1	10 0 50 50
2	Goldman & Hughes: chs. 4–6 1 presentation 10 websites	Article Review 1 Quiz 2	50 50
3	Goldman & Hughes: chs. 7–9 1 presentation 6 websites	Written Exercise 1	100
4	Goldman & Hughes: chs. 10–12 1 presentation 5 websites	Written Exercise 2 Quiz 3	100 50
5	Goldman & Hughes: chs. 13–14 1 presentation 8 websites	Written Exercise 3 Quiz 4	100 50
6	Goldman & Hughes: chs. 15–16 1 presentation 3 websites	DB Forum 2 Article Review 2	50 50
7	Goldman & Hughes: chs. 17–18 1 presentation 7 websites	Written Exercise 4	100
8	Goldman & Hughes: chs. 19–20 1 presentation 3 websites	Draft Complaint Quiz 5	150 50
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.