

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 340

FAMILY LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a balanced introduction to the theories, doctrines, and practice of family law. Students will learn the fundamental principles of family law, discuss important policy issues, learn practical skills and consider the ethical issues confronted by those who help process legal documents in family law.

RATIONALE

With the downward shift in hiring patterns in traditional industries, many workers have decided to return to school and obtain a degree to pursue a new career. One recent news article reflected the demand for paralegals noting that some older students are exploring new career options. Some people come in and have gone to our paralegal program because the demand for paralegals is high. Additionally, the paralegal degree through Liberty University Online would offer two distinctive, a uniquely Christian perspective as well as the convenience of being online thereby allowing the student the opportunity to complete the work on their schedule and from anywhere in the world.

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. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Understand legal concepts associated with family law.
- B. Draft key documents associated with divorce and dissolution of marriage.
- C. Conduct a client interview.

- D. Assess whether a marriage is valid.
- E. Describe the equitable distribution process and what methods are available to enforce alimony and child support awards.
- F. Explain the factors a court may consider in determining alimony, child support, and child custody.
- G. Identify common discovery devices used in family law cases.
- H. Understand legal issues associated with assisted reproductive technology.
- I. Understand the basic legal requirements of drafting a premarital or marital agreement.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

B. Textbook reading and presentations when available

C. Discussion Board forums (4)

There will be four Discussion Board forums, each taking place over a two-week period. A minimum of one source must be cited for each post. One initial thread of 250–300 words is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Modules/Weeks 1, 3, 5, and 7. Two replies of 100–150 words each are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Modules/Weeks 2, 4, and 6. Replies to Discussion Board Forum 4 are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

D. Short Answer Homework Questions

During Module/Week 1, students will be assigned two homework questions that require short answers. Answers must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 1.

E. Short Essays (3)

There will be three short essays that are to be 250–300 words. Each essay must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Modules/Weeks 2, 4, and 6.

F. Quizzes (2)

There will be three open-book/open-note quizzes containing 30 multiple choice and true/false questions. Students will be given 1 hour to complete each quiz by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Modules/Weeks 3, 5, and 7. Quiz 1 will cover the course material from Modules/Weeks 1–3, Quiz 2 will cover the course material from Modules/Weeks 4 and 5, and Quiz 3 will cover the course material from Modules/Weeks 6 + 7.

G. Final Exam Essays

Students will answer three short essay questions for the final exam. The exam must be completed by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board forums (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Short Answer Homework Questions	45
Short Essays (3 at 75 pts ea)	225
Quizzes (3 at 60 pts ea)	180
Final Exam Essays	150
Total	1010

B. Scale

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

C. Quizzes/Final Exam

For the quizzes apply the late policy above. For the final exam: the final exam will not be available after its due date/time.

D. 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 340

WEEK/ MODULE	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Wilson: chs. 1 & 3	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1 Thread	75
		Short Answer Homework Questions	45
2	Wilson: chs. 7 & 8	DB Forum 1 Replies	25
		Short Essay 1	75
3	Wilson: chs. 4 & 5	DB Forum 2 Thread	75
		Quiz 1	60
4	Wilson: ch. 6	DB Forum 2 Replies	25
		Short Essay 2	75
5	Wilson: chs. 9 & 10	DB Forum 3 Thread	75
		Quiz 2	60
6	Wilson: chs. 11 & 12	DB Forum 3 Replies	25
		Short Essay 3	75
7	Wilson: chs. 2 & 13	DB Forum 4 Thread	75
		Quiz 3	60
8	Wilson: ch. 14	DB Forum 4 Replies	25
		Final Exam 3 Essays	150
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week (except 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 week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.