Nashville State Community College  
Business & Applied Arts Division  
Paralegal Studies

Master Course Syllabus

This master course syllabus is meant simply as a guide and overview of the course. Each instructor will further clarify their criteria for grading, classroom procedures, attendance, exams and dates, etc. on his/her course syllabus.

LEGL 1300 Intro to Paralegal Studies  
(Formerly PLAW 1000)  
3 Credits  
3 Class Hours

Course Description: An introduction to the work performed by paralegals, regulation of the profession, legal and paralegal ethics, structure of the court systems and survey of substantive areas of law.

Instructor Information:
Name:  
Email:  
Office Phone:  
Office Location:  
Office Hours:

Textbook and Other Materials:
• Black’s Law Dictionary (Any version 1990-Present)

Westlaw Access
Thomson Reuters Westlaw (“Westlaw”) is a digital legal research database that is available every semester to every paralegal student enrolled in at least one (1) paralegal course at Nashville State Community College. Westlaw sends personalized login information to you via your nscc.edu email account during the first week of classes for the semester. Once you receive your login information, you may sign-in at www.westlaw.com.

Paralegal Studies Director & Instructor Ian Bourgoine provides in-person instruction to each NSCC paralegal student on utilizing Westlaw during the second week of classes in each semester of the year. If you have any difficulty accessing your account or have any questions about using Westlaw, please contact Director Ian Bourgoine at: ian.bourgoine@nscc.edu or by phone at (615)-353-3459.

Course Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:
• Understand the legal process and the nature of law practice, emphasizing the role of the paralegal in the delivery of legal services.
• Identify the professional associations that serve and promote the paralegal profession.
• Understand the legal and ethical principles that guide paralegal conduct.
• Understand the organization of the state and federal trial and appellate court systems and the different functions of those courts.
• Determine which area of law is relevant to a particular situation.

Topics to Be Covered:
• History, role, and function of a paralegal
• Structure of the American Legal System

  • Law and practice of torts
  • Law and practice of contracts
  • Law and practice of employment law
  • Discussion and summary of other areas of law
  • Legal ethics

Course Assessments:
The following performance assessments will be used to demonstrate students’ understanding, knowledge and skills:

  • Assignments
  • Examinations
  • Quizzes
  • Other.

Grading Scale:
Grades will be determined as follows (Average = Total points earned / Total points):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-69%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-64%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Attendance Policy
A student is expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. Each instructor will formulate an attendance policy and provide it on the course syllabus. Absences are counted from the first scheduled meeting of the class, and it is the responsibility of each student to know the attendance policy of each instructor in whose class he/she is enrolled. If a student is absent from a class, he/she should give an advanced explanation to the instructor. Absences in a course may affect a student’s final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student’s
Failure to attend class will result in a final course grade of “FA” or “FN” (see explanation below) depending on the individual instructor’s course policy.

FA= failure, attendance-related (unofficial withdrawal) Last recorded date of attendance required.
FN= failure, never attended class (unofficial withdrawal)

**Student Communication Channels**
It is the student’s responsibility to check D2L and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

**ADA Compliance Statement**
Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you wish to request any special accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at 615.353.3721 or 615.353.3741.

**Classroom Misconduct**
Nashville State Community College has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Please consult your Student Handbook for more specific details.

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or in conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.

Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but is not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.).

Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or unattended on campus.

**Academic Dishonesty (Honor Code)**
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. *Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words (A Writer’s Reference 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else’s work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing
confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor’s permission, allowing someone else to copy or use your work, using someone else’s work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member’s signature.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

**Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event of an inclement weather event, check the Nashville State web site home page at www.nssc.edu for announcements on campus closures. Campus closures will also be announced on local television stations (channels 2, 4, 5, and 17).

When classes are cancelled, an online assignment will be posted in NS Online. Check your NS Online email for a message from your instructor regarding your online assignment requirements. Even though classes may be cancelled, some areas, i.e. Testing Center, may be open. However, you should check before commuting to campus.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of Security are responsible for cancellation decisions during an inclement weather event for the Nashville State main campus and the Southeast campus. Cookeville, Waverly, and Dickson Campus Directors will make class cancellation decisions based on conditions in their respective areas. Decisions about class cancellations are based on actual conditions, not forecasts. The perspective used for making decisions is that of the college as an employer, not as a K-12 institution. Students should use their own best judgment in determining whether to report to campus during inclement weather when classes are not cancelled.