

**Family Law
Fall 2024
Law 212 (001)
Tue 6:05-9:00p**

Professor: Laurie Forbes Neff

e-mail: laurie@nextchapternova.com

Office Hours: By appointment

Required Text:

Krause, Elrod, & Oldham, *Family Law: Cases, Comments and Questions*
(West: 9th ed.)

Regular attendance and class participation are important.

Grading: There will be a three-and-one-half-hour, closed book in person examination. You will be responsible for the material covered during class discussions, as well as all of the readings, including those that are not discussed in class. Final grades may be raised or lowered by a single increment to reflect the quality of the class participation.

Assignments and Participation: I will call on several students randomly during each class. Academic Regulation 4.1 governs attendance. It provides, in part:

If a student is absent for any reason for more than 20 percent of the sessions of a course, the student is not eligible for credit in that course. A student who is not present for at least 75 percent of a session of the course is absent from that session. (See: https://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/regulations#AR_3_Matriculation_Registration_and_Graduation_Requirements_3).

I will take attendance at each class.

Should circumstances occur wherein you anticipate the possibility of missing a substantial number of class sessions (e.g., a serious illness), you should immediately contact the Associate Dean for Administration and Student Affairs, Annamaria Nields.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will understand and be able to communicate, both orally and in writing, basic principles of U.S. Family Law

2. Students will be able to examine factual scenarios implicating one or more Family Law questions, to determine the precise legal questions raised, the possible legal outcomes, and the benefits and costs of each of these outcomes.
3. Students will understand the separation and interaction of governmental powers affecting the family, at both the federal and state levels, and how to read and understand Family Law statutes, cases and regulations.

Exam Conflicts:

-In accordance with AR 4-4.1 (a) “Excuses and requests for permission not to sit for an examination when scheduled must be presented, with appropriate documentation, to the Law School’s Associate Registrar. Except in emergencies, such requests should be presented no later than two weeks before the date of the examination. An exam may be delayed only in the circumstances listed in subsection (c). The Law School’s Associate Registrar shall specify the date and time when a student with an excused absence may sit for the examination.”

Online Policies:

-Students should not send or receive email or text messages or browse the Internet during class time.

Class Recordings Prohibited: Pursuant to Academic Regulation 4-2.2, “Unless expressly permitted in writing by an instructor, no portion of a class session or an examination may be preserved by means of a recording device (such as an audio recording device or a camera).” Any exceptions to this policy must be expressly permitted in writing by me. I will, however, be recording certain course sessions and making these available to students upon express direction from the Associate Dean for Administration and Student Affairs if necessary to accommodate a student for certain absences.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND SCHEDULE:

**Please realize that this schedule is subject to slight changes as classes actually unfold. At the end of each class, I will confirm what material I intend to cover in the following class. Also, if weather interferes with an in-person class schedule, the class will transition to an online format.

Assignments:

1-Tuesday, August 27

Introduction, and Chapter 1: pg 10 (Modern Family) to 48

Chapter 2: Family Privacy

2-Tuesday, September 3

Chapter 3: Regulation of Marriage

3-Tuesday, September 10

Chapter 3: Regulation of Marriage
Chapter 4: Marital Rights and Obligations

4-Tuesday, September 17

Chapter 5: Marital Agreements
Chapter 6: Nonmarital Relationships

5-Tuesday, September 24

Chapter 7: Reproductive Decision Making

6-Tuesday, October 1

Chapter 8: Parentage

7-Tuesday, October 8

Chapter 9: Adoption to page 567
Chapter 10: Child, Parent and State: pgs 599
(Legal representation of Children) to 646,
pgs 657-670

8-Tuesday, October 15

Chapter 12: 760-795
Chapter 13: Jurisdiction

9-Tuesday, October 22

Chapter 14: Child Custody

10- Tuesday, October 29

Chapter 15: Property Division

11-Tuesday November 12

Chapter 16: Spousal Support 1057-1103, 1108-129
Chapter 17: Child Support 1131-1165, 1173-1195, 1200-1228

12-Tuesday, November 19

Chapter 18: Separation Agreements

13-Friday, November 22: Catch Up/Review Period

FINAL: 12/4/24 @ 6 p.m.