

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## PARA 201: You and the Law

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

To acquaint students with basic information about how their lives will be impacted by the law in numerous areas including marriage, death, employment, retirement, property ownership, consumer status, personal injury and criminal law. This course is open to all students. MnTC Goal 9.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/24/2009 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Structure of the Civil and Criminal Legal System.
2. Family Law: Marriage, Divorce, Annulment, Child Custody and Support.
3. Personal Injury: The Law of Negligence, Strict Liability and Intentional Torts.
4. Buying and Selling a Home: Realtors, Banks, Financing, Key Documents, Disclosure.
5. Home Ownership: Liens, Restrictions on Ownership, Gov't Restrictions, Zoning, Common-Interest Properties, Remodeling and Repair.
6. Renting Residential Property: Key Landlord and Tenant Concerns, The Lease, Termination.
7. Consumer Credit: Applying for Credit, Credit Cards, Other forms of Credit, Credit Repair.
8. Consumer Bankruptcy: Chapter 7, Discharge, Bankruptcy Planning and Avoidance.
9. Contracts and Consumer Law: Formation of Contracts, Remedies for Breach, Warranties, Consumer Protection.
10. Automobiles: Car Purchase, Lemon Laws, Police Encounters, Accidents and Insurance.
11. Employment Law: Hiring Issues, Discrimination Laws, Termination and Benefits.
12. Rights of Older Americans: Pensions, Employment Issues, Retirement, and Controlling Affairs.
13. Estate Planning: Wills, Trusts, Death and Taxes.

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. To become familiar with the structure of the Civil and Criminal Legal System and to understand the differences between the systems.
2. To develop an understanding of the major family law concepts such as Marriage, Divorce, Annulment, Child Custody and Support.
3. To understand the major types of personal injury claims.
4. To understand the process of buying and selling a home; to learn about the major players in the transaction and to understand the factors related to financing a home.
5. To understand the rights and responsibilities of home ownership, including restrictions on use and potential problem areas.
6. To understand the landlord tenant relationship including the concerns, rights and duties of both landlords and tenants.
7. To become familiar with the process of applying for credit, re-establishing credit and the pitfalls of bad credit.
8. To generally understand the process of bankruptcy with an emphasis on Chapter 7 consumer bankruptcy process, advantages and disadvantages.
9. To learn about contract requirements, remedies for breach, warranties with an emphasis on consumer contracts.
10. To learn about a variety of key issues involved with automobiles, including purchase, warranties, Lemon Laws, accidents and insurance.
11. To learn about major employment law issues such as discrimination, wage and hour law, child labor and benefits.
12. To learn about the issues facing older Americans such as , Health and Long-Term Benefits, Housing, Controlling Your Affairs, Health Care Decisions.
13. To learn the major tools for controlling your affairs in anticipation of death and/or long-term illness.

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

#### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted