

LAW 1500 - Introduction to Paralegal Studies

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 43991,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Jason Whiting

Adjunct Professor

Email: jrwhiting@ysu.edu

How to Refer to me:

Professor or Professor Whiting

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adjunct Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications: J.D., Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University, 2025

Instructor Office Location: Remote



Course Description

1500. Introduction to Paralegal Studies. This course introduces the students to the paralegal profession, including the study of the paralegal in the workplace; court structure at the federal and state levels; legal writing, research, and citation; rules of ethics and professional responsibility; and the unauthorized practice of law. Prereq.: none. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Introduction to Paralegal Studies, 7th ed. (Currier, Eimermann, and Campbell)		

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Syllabus Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study of Law and the Paralegal Profession	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus Quiz Week 1 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 1 Short Essay (Introduction to You)
8/31	Chapter 2: Legal Ethics	A Paralegal's Ethical Obligations	Week 2 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 2 Short Essay (Unauthorized Practice of Law)
9/7	Chapter 3: Sources of Law Chapter 4: Classification of the Law	Understanding the Law and Where it Comes From	Week 3 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 3 Short Essay (Civil vs. Criminal Law)
9/14	Chapter 5: Courts	Various Courts and their Roles in the Legal Process	Week 4 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 4 Short Essay (Appellate Decisions)
9/21	Chapter 6: Civil Litigation and Its Alternatives	Litigation and Avoiding Litigation	Week 5 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 5 Short Essay (Choosing ADR or Litigation)
9/28	Review Chapters 1–6	Midterm	Midterm Exam – Cumulative for Chapters 1 through 6



10/5	Chapter 7: Torts	A Brief Overview of the Law of Torts	Week 7 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 7 Short Essay (Understanding Elements)
10/12	Chapter 8: Criminal Law	A Brief Overview of Criminal Law	Week 8 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 8 Short Essay (Understanding Mens Rea)
10/19	Chapter 9: Criminal Procedure	How Criminal Law is Prosecuted and Defended	Week 9 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 9 Short Essay (The Exclusionary Rule)
10/26	Chapter 10: Contract Law Chapter 11: Choose ONE Specialized Practice Area to Read About	Forming and Enforcing Contracts A Specialized Practice Area of Your Choice	Week 10 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 10 Short Essay (Specialized Practice Areas)
11/2	Chapter 12: Finding and Interpreting Enacted Law Chapter 13 (A–C): Finding and Interpreting Court Opinions	How to Locate and Understand Statutes and Judicial Opinions	Week 11 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 11 Short Essay (IRAC)
11/9	Chapter 14: Finding the Law Chapter 15: Applying the Law	An Overview of the Research Process	Week 12 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 12 Short Essay (A Sample Research Problem)
11/16	Chapter 16: Interviewing	Communicating with Clients	Week 13 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 13 Short Essay (A Potential Client)
11/23	Chapter 17: Evidence and Investigations	Understanding Types of Evidence and How to Find Them	Week 14 Multiple Choice Quiz Week 14 Short Essay (Circumstantial Evidence)
11/30	Review Course Materials for Final Exam	Final	Final Exam
12/7	None!	Reflecting on the Course Materials & Your Future Career	Week 16 Short Essay (Where Do We Go from Here?)

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.