

COURSE SYLLABUS

ELDER LAW

University of Houston Law Center

Fall Semester, 2008

MW 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Instructor: Virginia L. Lootens, Elder Law Attorney

Office hours: By appointment (Please email for an appointment: vloodens@att.net)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the myriad of legal issues that are often grouped under various titles such as Elder Law, Aging and the Law, or Elderly and the Law. The course will highlight the social and legal issues associated with an aging society, a critical understanding of the distinct legal problems of the elderly and a familiarity with governmental programs aimed at older people.

COURSE MATERIALS: Elder Law: Cases and Materials (4th ed.) By Lawrence A. Frolik and Alison M. Barnes, LexisNexis Publishing Company

COURSE OUTLINE AND/OR REQUIREMENTS:

Week 1	Legal Issues in Later Life Ageism, Generational Justice and Autonomy	Chapter 1
Week 2	Practice and Ethics Practice and Ethics	Chapter 2 pp. 39-67
Week 3	Ethical Issues Competency	Chapter 2 pp. 67-84
Week 4	Income Maintenance Social Security and Benefits Pensions	Chapter 4 pp. 151-176
Week 5	Income Maintenance VA Benefits Retirement Benefits	Chapter 4 pp. 176-204
Week 6	Health Care Government Health Care Coverage	Chapter 5 pp.205-244

	Assuring Quality Health Care	pp.245-278
Week 7	Long Term Care Private Pay and Insurance Medicaid/ Medicaid planning	Chapter 6 pp. 279-343
Week 8	Long Term Care Appropriate care and Quality Assurance Nursing Home Contracts and Litigation	Chapter 6 pp. 344-385
Week 9	Guardianships Purpose and Process Capacity	Chapter 8 pp439-463 pp. 464-471
Week 10	Less Restrictive Alternatives to Guardianship The Guardian and Duties Alternatives to Guardianships	Chapter 8/9 pp 472-502 pp. 503-534
Week 11	Decision-Making and Elder Abuse Informed consent Surrogate Decision-making Elder abuse and neglect	Chapters 10/11
Week 12	Housing Issues Housing choices Housing and Finance Life Care Planning	Chapter 7
Week 13	Age Discrimination	Chapter 3
Week 14	Review	

Final Exam : December 15, 2008, 6 to 9 pm.

FIRST DAY ASSIGNMENT: Please read Chapter 1.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to attend and be prepared for each class. On August 26, 2008, you will be asked to sign the seating chart. A record of class attendance will be made for each class. The Law Center has a minimum 80% attendance policy for students. Students who attend fewer than the minimum percentage of classes may be dropped automatically from the class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Your grade may be raised or lowered one notch on the basis of class participation.

EXAMS AND GRADES

Grades: Grades are based on the Law Center letter grade system.

Final Exam: December 15, 2008, 6 – 9 pm. Multiple choice, short answer, and essay.

OFFICE HOURS

I will be happy to arrange office hours, in my office at the Law Center, with advance notice. Please use my email address (vloutens@att.net) to arrange an appointment. I am also available between 12 noon and 1 pm by phone, at my law office (713-622-6606). Please let my staff know that you are a student in my class. If I am not available, I will return your call as soon as possible.

