COURSE SYLLABUS

ELDER LAW - 5297
University of Houston Law Center
Fall Semester, 2015
T 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Instructor: Virginia L. Lootens, Elder Law Attorney
Office hours: By appointment (Please email for an appointment:
virginia_lootens@yahoo.com)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. To provide students with an overview of the legal and policy issues of aging clients in an aging society; and
2. To provide students a familiarity with governmental aid programs that benefit older persons.


COURSE OUTLINE AND/OR REQUIREMENTS:

Week 1    Elder Estate Planning    First Assignment:    Chapter 1
          Acknowledging Parameters; Attorney Client Relationship; the Blended Family

Week 2    The Transfer of Wealth    Chapter 2
          Integrating the Last Will and Testament; Integrating the Inter Vivos Trust; Integrating Planning Options

Week 3    Incapacity: Utilization of Powers and Surrogates    Chapter 3
          Durable Power of Attorney; Appointment of Guardian

Week 4    Health Care Decisions    Chapter 4
          Medical Power of Attorney; Refusal of Treatment

Week 5    Medicare Part A and Part B    Chapter 5
          Part A: Part B;

Week 6    Medicare: Part C: Part D    Chapter 5

Week 7    Medicaid    Chapter 6
          Eligibility;

Week 8    Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act    Chapter 6

Week 9    Special Needs Trusts    Chapter 6
Week 10  Social Security,  
          Eligibility; SSDI; SSI;  
    Chapter 7
Week 11  Social Security  
          Veteran's Benefits and Railroad Benefits  
    Chapter 7
Week 12  Elder Housing Options  
          Home Care; Institutional Care; Duty of Care  
    Chapter 8
Week 13  Payment Options for Elder Housing  
          Self-payment; Medicaid;  
    Chapter 9
Week 14  Long Term Care Insurance  
    Chapter 9
Week 15  Discrimination and Abuse  
          Caregiver Abuse; Institutional Abusive Conduct Review  
    Chapter 10

Final Exam: December 15, 2015; 4 to 6 p.m.

GRADING: A=100-95; A- 94-90; B 89-85; B- 84-80; C 79-75; C- 74-70;  
D 69-65

70% Final Exam: Multiple choice, short answer and short essay  
15% Participation/Attendance: Participation may increase or decrease your  
      grade by one notch, i.e. from A- to A  
15% Visit to approved area long-term care facility; short report following  
      given format, due last day of class

ATTENDANCE POLICY
      After 3 unexcused absences from class, students may be dropped from  
      the class. Excused absences are for verified illness and court/jury duty.  
      Attendance means present in class for at least 60 minutes.