

Oil & Gas Law Spring 2018 Syllabus

1. **Class sessions:**

Monday and Wednesday from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

2. **Reading Materials:**

- (a) Required Reading Materials: Weaver, Texas Oil and Gas Law: Cases and Materials (Fall 2017). These materials can be obtained from the Associate Dean's Office, 104 BLB Dean's Suite (ask for Maria or Fariba), Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.
- (b) Suggested (but not required) Reading Materials: Joseph Shade, Primer on the Texas Law of Oil and Gas (5th Ed. LexisNexis 2013).

3. **Attendance requirement policy:**

Consistent with university policy, 80 percent attendance in class is required. An attendance list will be circulated at each class session. Those individuals not satisfying the attendance requirement will be reported to UH Law Center administrative officials to be dropped from the course.

4. **Course Objective:**

The objective of this course is for you to learn the substantive law of Texas Oil and Gas in a comprehensive manner. To accomplish this goal, we will study the landmark cases that have shaped the substantive law in the order set forth in the Weaver casebook.

Throughout the casebook, there are Problem Sets that test your knowledge and synthesis of the discreet topics covered in the materials. You should work through these Problem Sets, and we will work through many of them in our class discussion. The Weaver casebook also has a Form Lease agreement in its appendix. See pages L-1 through L-5 of the Weaver casebook. Throughout the course, we will continuously refer back to the Form Lease and consider drafting issues and lease interpretation issues as we make our way through the various substantive topics. The law of Texas Oil and Gas represents a rich mixture of Property Law concepts and Contract Law concepts, so it builds on principles you learned in your first year classes. After completion of this course, in addition to being well prepared for Texas Bar Exam questions in Real Property/Oil and Gas, you should have confidence in being able to identify the critical legal issues for oil and gas matters and should also have an appreciation for how lawyers draft oil and gas leases to address these legal issues.

5. **Class session coverage, focus & discussion:**

- (a) Schedule of Coverage for Semester

The Reading Assignment set forth on the last page of this syllabus indicates that our class discussion will proceed at an orderly pace. The number of class sessions anticipated to be

held during the semester is 27 (two classes each week except during weeks with holidays), and in these class sessions we will cover 25 discrete Reading Assignments. Each class session will last approximately 90 minutes. You are expected to be able to discuss the assigned reading in depth, so please make a commitment to be prepared. Your advanced preparation gives you the best opportunity to synthesize our class discussion correctly.

(b) Subject Matter Coverage

Please be prepared to discuss the Reading Assignment where we left off in the previous class session and please also be prepared to discuss the next succeeding Reading Assignment. As a rule of thumb, you should read about 35 pages ahead of where we ended in the prior class session. We will proceed in the order set forth in the Reading Assignment sheet, but please note that the dates for covering these materials will shift. Please be diligent in monitoring our progress so that you are prepared to discuss the materials that will be covered in each class session.

In your study, please attempt to answer the questions in the Weaver casebook that immediately follow the cases. My expectation is that you will have thought about these questions and Problem Sets and will be prepared to give your answers to them when called upon in class. I don't expect you to always correctly answer all of these questions, but you should try to do so before class so that you can better understand the class discussion.

Oil & Gas Law covers a tremendous amount of material. *As a consequence, it is essential that you prepare for class on a regular basis or you will find yourself overwhelmed at examination time. In addition, because later classes build upon concepts learned in earlier sessions, you will quickly be left behind without regular preparation.* To this end, I have tried to make the reading assignments manageable and reasonable (i.e., not too short, not too long) without sacrificing coverage of the critical topics of the course. *You will find that your time spent in class preparation and in class attendance is useful (if not essential) for learning the subject matter of the course and for doing well on the examination.*

6. Use of personal computers:

The permitted use of personal computers in the classroom is solely for the purposes of (i) reviewing preparation notes and (ii) taking notes during class. Specifically excluded from in-class computer usage is anything beyond these activities, e.g., "surfing the web" and messaging. Nonparticipation in the classroom discussion attributable to diversionary uses of your personal computer constitutes an absence from the class. In the event this occurs, you are not eligible to sign the attendance sheet and are subject to appropriate action as the professor may determine in his sole discretion.

7. Grading process for this course:

- (a) Final Examination. The grade in this course will be entirely dependent upon the final examination (except as noted Paragraph (b) below). The exam is a closed book exam.

The examination will occur pursuant to the prescribed examination schedule. We will discuss the final exam in our final review for the last class session.

(b) Participation. Class participation may positively count towards your final grade.

8. Questions to professor:

Student discussion after class or in my office is welcomed and encouraged. You may call me or email me at any time. Please contact me as follows:

811 Main St., Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77002-6111
Telephone: 713-276-1678
Email: jmason@bakerlaw.com

I welcome any comments or suggestions that you may have regarding my teaching style, class presentation, or any other subject. Please feel free to provide me with such comments during the course of the semester as they will help me to improve my teaching. I will carefully consider all of the comments and suggestions that I receive.

9. Counseling Options:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html