

5222/16774– INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW OF MEXICO

PROFESSOR IGNACIO PINTO–LEON

SYLLABUS AND RULES

SPRING 2023

WEDNESDAYS 4 - 6 PM

Contact info:

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Office hours:

Via Zoom or in-person, by appointment
713-338-2879

(1) JAN. 18 – INTRODUCTION TO MEXICAN LEGAL HISTORY

- Read chapters 1 and 2 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)
- Supplementary readings:
 - The Legal Profession in Mexico, by Luis Fernando Perez–Hurtado

(2) JAN. 25 – MEXICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: FEDERALISM AND SEPARATION OF POWERS

- Read chapters 4 and 5 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)
- Guest speaker: TBA

(3) FEB. 1 – INTRODUCTION TO THE MEXICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- Read chapters 3 and 6 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)

(4) FEB. 8 – JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- Read chapters 7 and 8 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)
- Guest speaker: TBA

(5) FEB. 15 – CIVIL PROCEDURE AND CONFLICTS OF LAWS

- Read chapters 10 and 22 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)

(6) FEB. 22 – INTRODUCTION TO THE MEXICAN CIVIL CODES

- Read chapters 14 and 15 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)

(7) Mar. 1 – OBLIGATIONS (CONTRACTUAL AND EXTRA-CONTRACTUAL)

- Read chapter 17 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)

(8) MAR. 8 – MEXICAN CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

- Read Mexican Law chapter 11 (photocopied materials)

- Supplementary readings: Mexico's New Criminal Justice System: Substantial Progress and Persistent Challenges, by World Justice Project

(9) MAR. 22 – HOW TO RESEARCH MEXICAN LAW

- Supplementary reading: TBA

(10) MAR. 29 – MEXICAN COMMERCIAL LAW

- Read Mexican Law chapter 18 (photocopied materials)

(11) APR. 5 – ENERGY LAW / ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

- Read Mexican Law chapters 9 and 12 (photocopied materials)
- Guest speaker: TBA

(12) APR. 12 – PRACTICAL ASPECTS AND INTERACTIONS OF MEXICAN LAW WITH THE U.S. PRACTITIONER

- Guest speaker: TBA

(13) APR. 19 – THE **USMCA** (FORMERLY NAFTA): WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S OLD

- Guest speaker: TBA

(14) APR. 26 – FIESTA/TERTULIA/COURSE REVIEW

Required texts in the course

Photocopied course materials will be distributed before the beginning of the course. We will distribute supplementary reading materials throughout the semester.

Attendance policy

Students are required to attend at least to 80% of the classes. There will be 14 sessions. If you missed 3 classes, you would be under the 80%

Student participation is expected. Students should be ready for class, with their assignments. Repeated unpreparation will be noted and could be used to mark down somebody's grade.

Grading info

The final grade will be based on a 2-hour, in-classroom open book **final exam**. The final exam will consist of a combination of essay, multiple choice and true/false questions.

Learning Outcomes:

By taking this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Understand the structure of the Mexican legal system,
- (2) Identify the points of encounter and dissimilitude between the Mexican and the American legal systems,
- (3) Engage in legal analysis and reasoning, problem-solving, and written and oral communication relating to Mexican law, and
- (4) Develop due diligence pointers to find and work with Mexican counsel.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Wellness

This is an inclusive learning space.

At UHLC, we are committed to ensuring inclusive online and classroom learning spaces, where you'll be treated with respect and dignity, and where everyone is provided the equitable opportunity to participate, to contribute, and to succeed.

In this course, all students are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national origin, veteran's status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, marital status and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Our class is richer for this diversity.

Inclusive learning spaces facilitate the innovation and creative thought that enhance student success. This success arises from the participation, support, and understanding of you and your colleagues. I encourage you to speak up and to share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we're all expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others.

If you feel like your class performance is impacted in any way by your experiences inside or outside of class, please reach out to me. I want to be a resource for you. If you feel more comfortable speaking with someone besides me, Student Services is an excellent resource: 713-743-2182. Finally, I encourage you to bring any issues negatively impacting UHLC's openness to diversity and inclusion to the Law Center's Diversity and Inclusion committee. The D&I committee's charge includes "[building] on the Law Center's strengths as a diverse and inclusive environment." You can contact the committee directly at UHLCD&I@uh.edu.

Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Accessibility and Accommodations

UHLC is committed to ensuring that all students enjoy equal access and full participation.

If you anticipate or experience barriers based on a disability (including any chronic or temporary medical or mental health condition), please feel free to reach out to me so that we may discuss

options. If you require any support services, you may contact Ms. Samantha Ary, Academic Records Coordinator. Ms. Ary is located in room 44A TU-II in the Office of Student Services suite, and she can be reached at sary@central.uh.edu or 713-743-7466. Requests for accommodation that involve graded assignments **must be directed to Ms. Ary** and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and to process the request.

If you observe religious or cultural holidays that will coincide with synchronous class sessions or conferences, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we may make arrangements.

Preferred Name / Pronoun

I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Honor Code

The [UHLC Honor Code](#) applies to all aspects of my class. *You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code.* Please ask me if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to my course. *It is an Honor Code violation to review the graded assignments distributed to, or written by, any of my students from prior years.*

Counseling and Psychological Services

[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 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.

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program ("TLAP") also supports law students who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health problems. You can reach TLAP at any time at 1-800-343-8527. TLAP's website includes a page with links to sources about mental health that are of interest to law students: <https://www.tlaphelps.org/law-students>.

Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policies

UHLC and the University of Houston are committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, a confidential reporting process is available to you. For more information, please refer to the University System's [Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07](#) and [Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08](#).

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty and other University employees are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Due to this reporting requirement, faculty members and other employees are not a confidential resource. The reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy extends to alleged conduct by University employees and students.

Other UH Resources

- [Diversity and Inclusion Statement](#)
- [Non-Discrimination Statement](#)
- [Center for Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Center for Students with DisABILITIES](#)
- [LGBTQ Resource Center](#)
- [Cougars in Recovery](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (see Section XIII)
- [Veterans Services](#)
- [Cougar Cupboard](#)
- [CoogsCare](#) (student assistance resources)
- [DACA: What You Need to Know](#)
- [Student Health Center](#)
- [Wellness](#)