Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
PLAW 340
FAMILY LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides a balanced introduction to the theories, doctrines, and practice of family law. Students will learn the fundamental principles of family law, discuss important policy issues, learn practical skills and consider the ethical issues confronted by those who help process legal documents in family law.

RATIONALE
With the downward shift in hiring patterns in traditional industries, many workers have decided to return to school and obtain a degree to pursue a new career. One recent news article reflected the demand for paralegals noting that some older students are exploring new career options. Some people come in and have gone to our paralegal program because the demand for paralegals is high. Additionally, the paralegal degree through Liberty University Online would offer two distinctive, a uniquely Christian perspective as well as the convenience of being online thereby allowing the student the opportunity to complete the work on their schedule and from anywhere in the world.

I. PREREQUISITES
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE(S)
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Understand legal concepts associated with family law.
B. Draft key documents associated with divorce and dissolution of marriage.
C. Conduct a client interview.
D. Assess whether a marriage is valid.
E. Describe the equitable distribution process and what methods are available to enforce alimony and child support awards.
F. Explain the factors a court may consider in determining alimony, child support, and child custody.
G. Identify common discovery devices used in family law cases.
H. Understand legal issues associated with assisted reproductive technology.
I. Understand the basic legal requirements of drafting a premarital or marital agreement.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS
   A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
   B. Course Requirements Checklist
      After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
   C. Discussion Board forums (4)
      There will be four Discussion Board forums, each taking place over a two-week period. A minimum of one source must be cited for each post. One initial thread of 250–300 words is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Modules/Weeks 1, 3, 5, and 7. Two replies of 100–150 words each are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Modules/Weeks 2, 4, and 6. Replies to Discussion Board Forum 4 are due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.
   D. Case Brief
      During Module/Week 1, students are required to write a case brief for Mott v. Duncan Petroleum Transportation, following the format set forth in appendix A of the Textbook. The case brief must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 1.
   E. Short Answer Homework Questions
      During Module/Week 2, students will be assigned three homework questions that require short answers. Answers must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 2.
   F. Short Essays (5)
      There will be five short essays that are to be 200-250 words each and include a minimum of one source per essay. Each essay must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Modules/Weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.
   G. Quizzes (2)
      There will be two open-book/open-note quizzes containing 30 multiple choice and true/false questions. Students will be given 1 hour and 10 minutes to complete each quiz by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Modules/Weeks 4 and 7. Quiz 1 will
cover the course material from Modules/Weeks 1–4, and Quiz 2 will cover the course material from Modules/Weeks 5-7.

H. Final Exam Essays

Students will answer three short essay questions for the final exam. The exam must be completed by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board forums (4 at 100 pts ea)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Brief</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Answer Homework Questions</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essays (5 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (2 at 60 pts ea)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam Essays</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010   B = 800–899   C = 700–799   D = 600-699   F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Quizzes/Exam

For the quizzes and final exam, you will receive a 10% deduction for every half hour late, beginning with the first minute. Thus, one hour late results in a 20% deduction, two hours results in a 40% deduction, and so on.

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to
make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
### COURSE SCHEDULE

**PLAW 340**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Module</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kent: chs. 1 &amp; 3, 2 presentations</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist, DB Forum 1 Thread, Case Brief</td>
<td>10, 75, 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kent: chs. 4 &amp; 5, 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 1 Replies, Short Answer Homework Questions</td>
<td>25, 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kent: chs. 6 &amp; 8, 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 2 Thread, Short Essay 1</td>
<td>75, 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kent: ch. 7, 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 2 Replies, Short Essay 2, Quiz 1</td>
<td>25, 50, 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kent: chs. 2 &amp; 9, 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 3 Thread, Short Essay 3</td>
<td>75, 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kent: chs. 10 &amp; 11, 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 3 Replies, Short Essay 4</td>
<td>25, 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kent: chs. 12 &amp; 13, 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 4 Thread, Short Essay 5, Quiz 2</td>
<td>75, 50, 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kent: ch. 14, 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 4 Replies, Final Exam Essays</td>
<td>25, 150</td>
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**Total** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.