

**PLSC 301 - Civil Law and Politics**  
**(PLSC 301 was formerly called “American Legal System”)**  
**Instructor: Kathy Peterson, Attorney at Law**  
**Fall Term, 2017**  
**September 5 - December, 2017**

**PLSC 301 - Sec 04/CRN 17233**

**Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-1:45 p.m. in Room 221 Porter**

**E-Mail: [kpeters6@emich.edu](mailto:kpeters6@emich.edu) Office: 602 Pray-Harrold**

**Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. in 221 Porter**

**Required Text:** Calvi, James V. and Susan Coleman. American Law and Legal Systems  
(latest edition) Pearson Prentice-Hall

**Course Description:** This course will feature a survey of the various substantive components of the American legal system and its function in a democratic society. This course provides an overview of the subjects that are taught in law schools to first year law students. It also provides a basic overview of the American legal system as it affects citizens in a democratic society. Special emphasis will focus on the substantive areas of civil law, including: Property law, Family law, Tort law, Civil Procedure, and Contracts. Legal reasoning and a history of the American legal system, including its common law origin, will be featured. We will also examine how politics, our system of government and the people influence the creation and enforcement of the law. A brief overview of the United States Constitution will be provided. We will also focus on how the law is created, by whom and for what public policy it is meant to fulfill.

**Grade Requirements:** Your final grade will be based upon a total of **200 points**:

**3 exams (worth 60, 60 and 80 points) = 200 points**

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	94-100% (188-200 points) = A	74-76% (148-153 points) = C
	90-93% (180-187 points) = A-	70-73% (140-147 points) = C-
	87-89% (174-179 points) = B+	67-69% (134-139 points) = D+
	84-86% (168-173 points) = B	64-66% (128-133 points) = D
	80-83% (160-167 points) = B-	60-63% (120-127 points) = D-
	77-79% (154-159 points) = C+	<= 59%(<= 119 points) = F

## **Rules of Classroom Etiquette:**

**Please do not text during class. Please.**

**No photographs of the Instructor's work product are permitted.**

**Civility** toward other students and the Instructor is required. Civility means gracious consideration of others.

**Academic integrity** is also a requirement of this class. All students must comply with Eastern Michigan University's policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty, found at: [www.emich.edu/sjs/violations.html.f](http://www.emich.edu/sjs/violations.html.f)

If you miss a class, you must get notes from another student in your class. I do not give copies of my work product to any student.

## Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

**Week #1 - 9/6**

**Introduction to PLSC 301**

**Review of Syllabus**

**Week #2 - 9/11, 9/13**

**Legal Reasoning**

**Calvi, Chap. 1**

**What is the Law?**

**History and the Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 2**

**Common Law**

**The United States Constitution: Supreme Law of the Land**

**Calvi, Chap. 6**

**The Rule of Law and Due Process of Law**

**U.S. Constitution**

**Week #3 -9/18, 9/20**

**Family Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 13**

**Week #4 -9/25, 9/27**

**Family Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 13**

**Week #5 - 10/2, 10/4**

**Property Law**

**Calvi Chap. 12**

**Week #6 - 10/9, 10/11**

**Property Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 12**

**Week #7 - 10/16, 10/18**

**Property Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 12**

**Wednesday 10/18 - Exam #1**

**Week #8 - 10/23, 10/25**

**Tort Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 10**

**Week #9 - 10/30, 11/1**

**Tort Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 10**

**Week #10 - 11/6, 11/8**

**Tort Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 10**

**Week #11 - 11/13, 11/15**

**Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence**

**Calvi, Chap. 4**

**Week #12 - 11/20, 11/22**

**Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence**

**Calvi, Chap. 4**

**Wednesday 11/22 - Exam #2**

**NO CLASSES ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23 - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2016 =**

**Thanksgiving Day Recess**

**Week #13 - 11/27, 11/29**

**Contract Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 11**

**Week #14 - 12/4, 12/6**

**Contract Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 11**

**Week #15 - 12/11**

**Contract Law**

**Calvi, Chap. 11**

**12/13 - 12/19**

**Final Exams**

**Wednesday December 13 - 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Exam #3**

**Final grades are due by Thursday December 21, 2017 at 11:00 p.m.**