

**LAST REVIEW:** 2009-2010 **NEXT REVIEW:** 2014-2015  
*(i.e. 2003-2004) (i.e. 2008-2009)*

**STATUS:** A  
*(A, I, D)*

**COURSE TITLE:** Domestic Relations

**COMMON COURSE NUMBER:** PLA 1800

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**CONTACT HOUR BREAKDOWN**  
*(per 16 week term)*

**CLOCK HOURS:** 48  
*(Voc. Course ONLY)*

Lecture: 48 Lab:

Clinic: Other:

**PREREQUISITE(S):** ENC 1101, PLA 1003, and PLA 1104 or Program Manager's approval

**COREQUISITE(S):**

**PRE/COREQUISITE(S):**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** *(750 characters, maximum):*

**This course surveys domestic relations, and includes topics such as marriage, dissolutions of marriage, separation agreements, custody, legitimacy, adoption, name changes, support, court procedures, and property disposition.**

General Education Requirements – Associate of Arts Degree (AA), meets Area(s): Area  
General Education Requirements – Associate in Science Degree (AS), meets Area(s): Area  
General Education Requirements – Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS), meets Area(s): Area

## **UNIT TITLES**

- 1. Introduction: History of Domestic Law**
- 2. Marriage**
- 3. Annulment**
- 4. Dissolution - Initial Interview, Initiating the Action, Service, Defaults, and Response**
- 5. Discovery**
- 6. Parental Responsibility**
- 7. Support -Child and Spousal**
- 8. Equitable Distribution of Property**
- 9. Settlement Agreements**
- 10. Relief – Temporary, Final Judgment, Enforcement and Modifications**
- 11. Adoption**
- 12. Ethics in Domestic Relations Practice**

## **EVALUATION:**

Please provide a brief description *(250 characters maximum)* that details how students will be evaluated on the course outcomes.

**Evaluation may include but is not limited to the following:**

**Exams, Quizzes, Presentations, Portfolios, Discussions, Class Participation, Attendance, Projects, Co-ops, Practicum, Internships, Externships, and Research Projects.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

## **UNITS**

### **Unit 1**

#### **General Outcome:**

- 1.0 The student shall be able to describe the historical bases of legal concepts affecting the family.**

#### **Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 1.1 Describe the historical background of legal concepts affecting the family.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 2**

**General Outcome:**

**2.0 The student shall be able to describe the legal concept of marriage.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

**2.1 Describe the requirements for a valid marriage.**

**2.2 Describe disabilities preventing a valid marriage.**

**2.3 List legal presumptions regarding marriage.**

**2.4 Describe premarital agreements and post-nuptial agreements.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 3**

**General Outcome:**

- 3.0 The student shall be able to distinguish between an annulment and a dissolution of marriage, differentiate between a void and a voidable marriage, and discuss the various grounds for annulment.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 3.1 Distinguish between an annulment and a dissolution of marriage.**
- 3.2 Differentiate between a void and a voidable marriage.**
- 3.3 Explain the various grounds for annulment.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 4**

**General Outcome:**

- 4.0 The student shall be able to describe procedures, petitions, counterpetitions, and the filing of documents in a dissolution of marriage action, as well as draft a petition for dissolution of marriage.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 4.1 Plan and gather relevant information from an initial interview with a client.**
- 4.2 Describe and define access to courts:**
- 4.2.1 Residency requirements**
  - 4.2.2 Personal jurisdiction**
  - 4.2.3 "Long-arm" jurisdiction**
- 4.3 Draft a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage and other related pleadings**
- 4.4 Describe default**
- 4.5 Draft a Response and Counterpetition, as well as other appropriate documents**
- 4.6 Describe the process required for the filing of documents**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 5**

**General Outcome:**

- 5.0 The student shall be able to describe discovery methods available for use in a domestic relations proceeding as well as mandatory disclosure required by state law.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 5.1 Describe the discovery methods as used in a domestic relations proceeding.**
- 5.2 Explain the mandatory disclosure requirements under Florida law.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 6**

**General Outcome:**

- 6.0 The student shall be able to discuss the concept of parental responsibility as it relates to minor children in a dissolution of marriage.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 6.1 Describe parents' responsibilities as natural guardians of minor children.**
- 6.2 Define shared parental responsibility.**
- 6.3 Define sole parental responsibility.**
- 6.4 Explain the concept of timesharing and the role of the parenting plan.**
- 6.5 Explain the function of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act in interstate proceedings.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 7**

**General Outcome:**

**7.0 The student shall be able to describe the factors in the requirement, measurement, and enforcement of child and spousal support.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 7.1 List the primary criteria used to measure child support.**
- 7.2 Draft a Child Support Guidelines Worksheet.**
- 7.3 Describe the requirements for modifications of child support.**
- 7.4 Explain the various types of alimony awards.**
- 7.5 Describe the controlling factors that determine the award of alimony and the termination and extension of such alimony.**
- 7.6 Describe the requirements for the modification of spousal support.**
- 7.7 Describe enforcement remedies.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 8**

**General Outcome:**

- 8.0 The student shall be able to discuss the concept of property division in a dissolution of marriage proceeding.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 8.1 Distinguish between marital and nonmarital assets and liabilities.**
- 8.2 Explain the statutory factors to be considered by the court in distributing marital assets and liabilities.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 9**

**General Outcome:**

**9.0 The student shall be able to prepare a settlement agreement.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

**9.1 List the components of a settlement agreement.**

**9.2 Draft a settlement agreement.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 10**

**General Outcome:**

- 10.0 The student shall be able to define and describe temporary relief, final judgment, enforcement, and modifications.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 10.1 List the various types of temporary relief.**
- 10.2 Describe circumstances in which special consideration may be given for temporary relief.**
- 10.3 Describe the trial (hearing) of a dissolution.**
- 10.4 Define and describe the Final Judgment.**
- 10.5 Describe some of the justifications for modification of a Final Judgment.**
- 10.6 Explain the methods of enforcing a Final Judgment.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 11**

**General Outcome:**

**11.0 The student shall be able to describe the requirements of adoption.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

**11.1 Describe the adoption process.**

**11.2 Define "consent to adopt."**

**11.3 Describe anonymity, revocation, and the legal effect of adoption.**

**Common Course Number: PLA 1800**

**Unit 12**

**General Outcome:**

- 12.0 The student shall be able to identify the ethical principles pertaining to domestic relations practice.**

**Specific Measurable Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this unit, the student shall be able to:**

- 12.1 Discern and apply the ethical guidelines that pertain to the practice of domestic relations law.**