

**El Paso Community College**  
**Syllabus**  
**Part II**  
**Official Course Description**

<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<u>Paralegal</u>
<b>COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER</b>	<u>LGLA 1355</u>
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<u>Family Law</u>
<b>COURSE CREDIT HOURS</b>	<u>3      3    :    0</u> Credits   Lec    Lab

**I. Catalog Description**

Presents fundamental concepts of family law including formal and informal marriages, divorce, annulment, marital property, and the parent-child relationship with emphasis on the paralegal's role in family law. **(3:0).**

**II. Course Objectives**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Unit I. Contract Law as It Applies to Marriage Contracts
1. List and discuss the elements necessary to form a valid contract.
  2. Distinguish between a valid, void and voidable contract.
  3. Discuss the legal principles associated with gifts.
  4. Identify and discuss the various ways of forming a valid contract.
  5. List and discuss the legal requirements necessary in order to have a valid Antenuptial Contract in Texas.
  6. Utilize the Texas Family Law Code.
  7. Identify the role and ethical considerations of the paralegal in family law.
  8. Discuss the specific "billable" tasks associated with family law.
- B. Unit II. The Formation of Ceremonial Marriages and Common Law Marriages
1. Discuss social policy affecting marriage.
  2. List and discuss the major requirements for a ceremonial marriage in Texas.
  3. List and discuss the legal requirements necessary for proving a common-law marriage in the State of Texas.
  4. List the legal effects of marriages according to Texas Law.
  5. List and discuss the elements of a Putative Marriage.
- C. Unit III. Dissolution of Marriage
1. Distinguish between an annulment, divorce, and legal separation.
  2. Distinguish between a valid, void, and voidable marriage.
  3. List and discuss the grounds under Texas law which can be used in order to obtain an Annulment.

4. List and discuss the grounds under Texas law which can be used to get a marriage declared void.
5. List and discuss the grounds available to a party in Texas who is seeking a divorce.
6. Discuss the impact that dissolving a marriage has on property, children, and child support.
7. Draft the documents necessary in Divorce, Annulment, and Suit to Declare a Marriage Void proceedings.

D. Unit IV. The Parent-Child Relationship

1. List and discuss the various methods available in Texas for establishing the parent-child relationship.
2. Discuss the legal effects under Texas law of establishing the parent-child relationship.
3. Draft the various documents necessary in establishing the parent-child relationship.
4. Identify the Juvenile Justice system

E. Unit V. Termination of the Parent-Child Relationship

1. List and discuss the requirements in Texas for terminating the parent-child relationship.
2. Draft the documents necessary in a termination proceeding.

**III. THECB Learning Outcomes (WECM)**

1. Use terminology relating to family law.
2. Analyze sources relating to family law.
3. Draft documents used in family law.
4. Analyze the ethical considerations of the paralegal in family law.

**IV. Evaluation**

Grading Scale:

90-100	=	A
80-89	=	B
70-79	=	C
60-69	=	D
Below 60	=	F
Incomplete	=	I
Withdrew or Withdrawn	=	W

**V. Disability Statement (Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA])**

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

**VI. 6 Drop Rule**

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to

see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.