

**FLORIDA FAMILY LAW
SYLLABUS
Fall 2010
Professor Willis**

PREPARATION:

As a student, I preferred to spend about one-third of my study time preparing for class, and two-thirds reviewing. This meant that I was less prepared than many others; however, I continually reviewed. I strongly recommend you do the same. If you are unprepared, or under-prepared, for a particular class, please attend anyway. I recommend that you at least review the slides prior to each class. I strongly recommend that you read all the assigned cases and my comments on them.

PARTICIPATION:

With the use of my slides, each of you has a copy of my notes - either in print or over the internet; thus, I have difficulty calling on students to answer questions for which they already have the answers. As a result, I will largely lecture. I enjoy questions and generally will try to answer all of them. I don't bite, so please feel free to ask whatever questions you have. Strong participation can have a positive impact on your grade.

ATTENDANCE:

Although I will not take attendance, I will observe whether significant numbers of students are absent. In the case of substantial absences, those in attendance may receive some preferential treatment, as explained in class.

OFFICE HOURS:

I am in class on Monday from 2 to 4 plus this class. I am generally available after 9 am until about 4 most days.

E-MAIL:

My e-mail address is willis@law.ufl.edu. My web site address has information concerning this course and many other subjects (particularly tax and accounting) on more than one subpage.

ASSIGNMENTS:

We will cover the material in the following order.

My experience from other courses is that I can cover approximately ten slides in a one hour class. Hence, the following schedule generally follows that plan. If necessary, we will carry-over a topic to the following class; however, I may, on occasion, suggest that you simply read any un-covered slides and linked material if the schedule does not permit class coverage.

Be sure to be familiar with Chapter 61 of the Florida Statutes, particularly the parts dealing with alimony, child support, and property/liability distribution.

Introduction (one class)

Child Support Guidelines (the statute) (one to two class periods)

Child Support (with emphasis on the definition of Income) (one week)

Alimony (with emphasis on the definition of Income) (at least one week)

Modification of Child Support and Alimony (this topic may be interspersed with the prior two)

Heartbalm Actions (this interesting topic will likely cover one day)

Equitable Distribution (with emphasis on Florida Law and the definition of assets and liabilities) (one week)

Marriage Contracts and Marital Settlement Agreements (emphasis on what is required for enforceability) (one to two days)

Financial Calculations for Lawyers (two classes)

Tax Issues for Alimony and Property Division (one week)

Community Property (one class comparison of various statutes)

Other issues such as Social Security and Retirement Accounts

Forensic Accounting and Forensic Economics (this will be interspersed with other topics, though, if time permits, we will focus on them and what they do)