



**Domestic Relations-HYBRID
113-6A**

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Spring 2022

Faculty: Lola Natay

E-mail: lnatay@navajotech.edu

Office: Building E, Room 108

Office Phone: (928) 882-3148

Office Hours: You may make an appointment with me Monday-Friday. Evening appointments are also available. We can arrange to meet face-to-face in my office or virtually. I encourage all students to communicate with me regularly.

Preferred Communication: Email.

Modality: Hybrid (web-enhanced: Blackboard)

Class Location and Meeting Times: Blackboard Collaborate/Building E, Room 104, Wednesday 1:00 pm-3:40 pm

Required Materials:

Textbooks: None. Materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Create a profile on nexusuni.com

You should also buy any edition of *Black's Law Dictionary*.

Tools: NTU Email Address, Blackboard Access

Laptop and Internet Access: Every student is required to have access to a laptop and the internet.

Lab Fees: None

Mission, Vision, and Philosophy

Mission: Navajo Technical University honors Diné culture and language, while educating for the future.

Vision: Navajo Technical University provides an excellent educational experience in a supportive, culturally diverse environment, enabling all community members to grow intellectually, culturally, and economically.

Philosophy: Through the teachings of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahátá (planning), Íina (implementing), and Siihasin (reflection), students acquire quality education in diverse fields, while preserving cultural values and gaining economic opportunities.

Course Description

This course involves learning and understanding the state and tribal family law on marriage and divorce, separate and community property, adoption, custody, the children's code, violence against women, children and elders as well as federal laws that apply to the native nations such as the

Violence Against Women Act, Navajo Nation Elder Abuse Protection Act and Indian Child Welfare Act. Comparative tribal and state law on certain areas of the course content will be viewed and discussed. Emphasis will be placed on Navajo law.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course:

1. Students will learn the laws of domestic relations in the tribal, state and federal levels.
2. Students will learn to draft petitions for divorce, adoptions, etc.
3. Still will gain an understanding of how domestic relations are handled in the Navajo Nation Courts.
4. Still will be able to identify matters on fact patterns presented.

Course Outcomes	Course Measurements
Knowledge of how laws at all three levels (tribal, state and federal)	Writing Assignments and quizzes
Knowledge of drafting petitions involving domestic relations.	Writing assignments
Knowledge of how Navajo Courts address and apply Navajo Fundamental Laws to Domestic cases.	In class participation, writing assignments and quizzes
Knowledge of using fact patterns.	Practice Exams

Program Outcomes:

Students should be able to...

1. Demonstrate familiarity with Navajo Nation Black Letter law.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with Fundamental Law of the Diné People.
3. Analyze client needs.
4. Write effective legal pleadings.
5. Make formal court arguments.
6. Demonstrate professionalism.

Course Activities

Week	Date	Class Topics/Reading Due	Assignments Due	Assessments
1	01/19	Introduction	Blackboard, Syllabus	
	01/21	Last day to add/drop		
2	01/26	Outlines, Marriage	Current Event, Reply	Quiz
3	02/02	Marriage/Divorce Common Law	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz
4	02/09	Community Property, Separate Property	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz
5	02/16	Child Custody, Support, Paternity	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz

6	02/23	Guardianship, Incapacitation	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz
	02/25	Graduation Petition due		
7	03/02	Review	PowerPoint	Class Presentation
8	03/09			Midterm
	03/11	Midterm grades due		
9	03/16	Spring Break		
10	03/23	Adoption, ICWA	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz
11	03/30	Children's Code-ABBA	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz
	04/06	Last day to withdraw with "W"		
12	04/13	Domestic Violence- VAWA	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz
13	04/20	Probate	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz
14	04/27	Navajo Nation Outline	Current Event, Reply, Briefs	Quiz
15	05/04		Powerpoint	Class Presentation
16	05/11			Finals
	05/12	Grades due to the Registrar		
	12/13	Graduation		

Grading Plan

Current Events:	10%
Class Participation:	15%
Project(s):	15 %
Quizzes:	15 %
Mid-term:	15%
Final Exam:	15%
Briefs:	15%

A = 100-90%

B = 89-80%

C = 79-70%

D = 69-60%

F = 59% or less

Grading Policy

Students must do their own work. Cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) plagiarism, submission of work that is not one's own, submission or use of falsified data, unauthorized access to exams or assignments, use of unauthorized material during an exam, or supplying or communicating unauthorized information for assignments or exams.

Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class activities. Points will be given to students who actively participate in class activities.

Cell phone and headphone use

Please turn cell phones off **before** coming to class. Cell phone courtesy is essential to quality classroom learning. Headphones must be removed before coming to class.

Exams

All quizzes, the midterm exam and the final exam will be given on the dates scheduled. Any student who needs to take a quiz or exam other than on the scheduled date, must get prior approval of the instructor and may only be rescheduled for a justifiable reason. The exam will then be scheduled prior to the regularly scheduled exam if possible. **In the event of an emergency the instructor must be informed immediately and sufficient documentation will be required.** A note stating the student was seen at the clinic will not suffice. If the emergency occurs without notice, the student shall take the midterm/final exam no later than 3 days following the test date. If a student requires rescheduling of the exam, that student is prohibited from contacting fellow classmates until all students have taken the exam. Additionally, all students who have already taken the exam are prohibited from discussing the exam with the student(s) that have not taken the exam.

Current Events

Students must submit an article from a reputable newspaper, periodical, or Internet site relating to current events that involve an aspect of the law every week the Sunday before class. You must also submit a brief description and legal explanation of the article on Blackboard. Be prepared to present the article in class. I will call on every student at the beginning of class every week to discuss his or her current event. You must also post one reply to another student's posted current event. Please include at least two legal terms and their definitions in your description. Your reply should also include a legal term and definition.

Quizzes

There will be weekly quizzes that must be completed prior to the start of the class lecture. These quizzes are posted on Blackboard. Students are responsible for completing the quiz within the time frame allowed. Quizzes will be due every Wednesday.

Class Presentations

Students will prepare and present as a small group of two (2) people. Students may use PowerPoint, Google Slides, handouts, or any other materials to assist in their presentation. For the midterm presentation, each group will cover an area of domestic relations. The midterm presentation does not require a paper. The final presentation should include a summary of the topic and it should discuss relevant Navajo Nation case law. The presentation should inform the class about the Navajo Tribal law and its applicability to the Navajo Nation case law. The presentation should be 10-15 minutes long and the group should be prepared to answer questions from the class. Professional attire should be worn. The written paper regarding the presentation must be at least two (2) pages long, not including any attachments. The paper should also contain a bibliography.

The paper should be double spaced, using APA style and a 12-point font. There is a paper requirement and a Powerpoint/Google Slides presentation due for the final presentation.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. A percentage of the student's grade will be based on class attendance and participation. Absence from class, regardless of the reason, does not relieve the student of responsibility to complete all course work by required deadlines. Furthermore, it is the student's responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and any other information covered when absent from class and to arrange to make up any in-class assignments or tests if permitted by the instructor. Incomplete or missing assignments will necessarily affect the student's grades. Instructors will report excessive and/or unexplained absences to the Counseling Department for investigation and potential intervention. **Instructors may drop students from the class after three (3) absences unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor to make up work and the instructor deems any excuse acceptable.**

Study Time Outside of Class for Face-to-Face Courses

For every credit hour in class, a student is expected to spend two hours outside of class studying course materials.

Study Time for Hybrid or Blended Courses

For a hybrid or blended course of one credit hour, a student is expected to spend three hours per week studying course materials.

Study Time for Online Courses

For an online course of one credit hour, a student is expected to spend four hours per week studying course materials.

Academic Integrity

Integrity (honesty) is expected of every student in all academic work. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be the student's own. Students who engage in academic dishonesty diminish their education and bring discredit to the University community. Avoid situations likely to compromise academic integrity such as: cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism; modifying academic work to obtain additional credit in the same class unless approved in advance by the instructor, failure to observe rules of academic integrity established by the instructor. **The use of another person's ideas or work claimed as your own without acknowledging the original source is known as plagiarism and is prohibited.**

Diné Philosophy of Education

The Diné Philosophy of Education (DPE) is incorporated into every class for students to become aware of and to understand the significance of the four Diné philosophical elements, including its affiliation with the four directions, four sacred mountains, the four set of thought processes and so forth: Nitsáhákees, Nahát'á, Íina and Siih Hasin which are essential and relevant to self-identity, respect and wisdom to achieve career goals successfully.

At NTU's Zuni Campus, the A:shiwi Philosophy of Education offers essential elements for helping students develop Indigenous and Western understandings. Yam de bena: dap haydoshna: akkya hon detsemak a:wannikwa da: hon de:tsemak a:ts'umme. *Our language and ceremonies allow our people to maintain strength and knowledge.* A:shiwi core values of hon i:yyułashik'yanna:wa (respect), hon delank'oha:willa:wa (kindness and empathy), hon i:yyayumola:wa (honesty and trustworthiness), and hon kohoł lewuna:wediyahnan, wan hon kela i:tsemanna (think critically) are central to attaining strength and knowledge. They help learners develop positive self-identity, respect, kindness, and critical thinking skills to achieve life goals successfully.

Students with Disabilities

Navajo Technical University is committed to serving all students in a non-discriminatory and accommodating manner. Any student who feels that she or he may need special accommodations should contact the Accommodations Office (<http://www.navajotech.edu/student-services#accomodations-services>) in accordance with the university's Disability Accommodations Policy (see http://www.navajotech.edu/images/about/policiesDocs/Disability_Exhibit-A_6-26-2018.pdf).

Email Address

Students are required to use NTU's email address for all communications with faculty and staff.

Final Exam Date: May 11, 2022