



**Domestic Relations and Family Law
Spring 2022
Law 113-Online
Credits: 3**

Instructor: Robert Yazzie

Office: Law Classroom

Office Hours:

Advance Appt.

Class Location: Virtual Communication via Blackboard or Zoom

Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays, 9:00am to 12:00pm

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Phone: 505-870-2907

Required Materials:

1. Fundamental Laws of the Dine entitled Dine Bi Beennahaz'aanii Biste Sili, 1 N.N.C 201-206 enacted by the Navajo Nation Council (Resolution CN-69-02) on Nov. 8, 2002
2. Title 9 N.N.C Domestic Relations
3. Title 7 N.N.C Navajo Courts

Textbooks:

- Navajo Courts and Navajo Common Law, Raymond D. Austin, **ISBN** (ISBN: 978-0-8166-6536-5)
- Family Law Cases, Comments and Questions, 8th Edition, Harry D. Krause, Linda Elrod and Thomas Oldham, **ISBN:** 978-1-683-28451-2 (hardbound) or ebook ISBN-13: 978-1-640-20574-1
- Leading the Way- The Wisdom of the Navajo People, published by Kathleen Manolescu, Vol. 1-6, January 18 – May 11, 2022.

Tools: Jump drives to store digital data and a 3-ring notebook to file handouts.

Lab Fee: None

Mission Statement

Navajo Technical University's mission is to provide University readiness programs, certificates, associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees. Students, faculty, and staff will provide value to the Diné community through research, community engagement, service learning, and activities designed to foster cultural and environmental preservation and sustainable economic development. The University is committed to a high quality, student-oriented, hands-on-learning environment based on the Diné cultural principles: *Nitsáhákees, Nahátá, Íina, Siihasin.*

Course Description

This course involves learning and understanding the state and tribal family law on marriage and divorce, separate and community property, adoption, custody, and support enforcement, children's code, violence against women, children and elders as well as federal laws that apply to the native nations such as the 1994 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.

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 petition for divorce, adoptions, etc.
3. Still will gain an understanding of how domestic relations are handle 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

Grading Plan:

Homework	20%	A = 100 - 90%
Mid-term	20%	
Final Exam	25%	B = 89 - 80%
Project	10%	
Quizzes	20%	C = 79 - 70%
Class Participation	3%	D = 69 - 60%
		F < 60%
Portfolio:	2%	

Course Policies

Grading Policy

Each student must do his or her own homework and case studies. Discussion among students on homework and cases is encouraged for clarification of assignments, technical details of using software, and structuring major steps of solutions - especially on the course's Web site. Students must do their own work on the homework and exam. Cheating and Plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Cheating includes but is not limited to: plagiarism, submission of work that is not the student's own, submission or use of

falsified data, unauthorized access to exam or assignment, use of unauthorized material during an exam, supplying or communicating unauthorized information for an assignment or exam.

Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class activities- as listed above, as it is 5% of the grade. Points will be given to students who actively participate in class activities including field trips, laboratories, and ask questions of guest speakers and other presenters.

Cell phone and head phone use

Please turn cell phones off or place them on silence or vibrate mode **BEFORE** coming to class. Also, answer cell phones **OUTSIDE OF CLASS** (not in the classroom). Exercising cell phone use courtesy is appreciated by both the instructor and classmates. Headphones are to be removed before coming to class.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to regularly attend all classes for which they are registered. 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 his/her responsibility to complete all course work by the 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.](#)

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.

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.

Students with Disabilities

The Navajo Technical University and the General Science program are committed to serving all enrolled students in a non-discriminatory and accommodating manner. Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of disability, or needs special accommodations should inform the instructor privately of such so that accommodations arrangement can be made. Students who need an accommodation should also contact the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at 505-786-4138.

Final Exam Date: May 10, 2022