



## LEARNING GOALS

After completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ◆ Make policy-based arguments, including the ability to identify the public policies of a law and their implications.
- ◆ Evaluate legal arguments, including the ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of particular rules and policies.
- ◆ Advocate, in both oral and written formats, the legal, economic, and social strengths and weaknesses of a rule or policy and use case law, statutes, and policy to persuade others.
- ◆ Recognize ethical issues inherent in the way certain public policies interact with criminal laws, and attempt to resolve such issues.
- ◆ Acknowledge the existence of diverse ideological viewpoints when considering the social implications of criminalizing certain activities.

## ATTENDANCE, GRADES, & UPPER LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT

Class attendance is important, and it is mandatory. Per the WSCL Attendance Policy (reprinted in the Student Handbook) students who miss more than four (4) classes may be dismissed from the class and thus receive a “0” for the course.

This class satisfies the Western State College of Law upper level writing requirement (ULWR), and follows guidelines established by the American Bar Association. Each student will earn a numeric grade for the course. The final course grade consists of a draft (15%), P&P (participation & professionalism) (25%), and a 15-18 page research paper (60%).

You will work on the paper throughout the semester. In a WSCL ULWR course, you must earn a 2.0 or higher to obtain ULWR credit.

## PARTICIPATION, PROFESSIONALISM, PRESENTATIONS, & PREPARATION

Participation & Professionalism (P&P): Be prepared to participate in class. This class is most productive (and fun) if you have thought about the material and are willing to discuss it. All viewpoints are welcome. 25% of your final course grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your contributions to class discussions, attendance and punctuality, conduct during class time, your presentation of a vice topic to the class, and overall professionalism. You may not record the class without my prior approval.

Group Presentation: Every student must present a vice topic to the class; details will be discussed during our first class session. I will also periodically provide material regarding the ULWR and the final paper.







race, ethnicity, educational, disability and/or religious background(s)), the ability to make decisions that reflect an appropriate focus on those needs and goals, and awareness that cultural issues may affect the relevance of facts and application of the law.

- (8) **Legal Ethics:** Students will demonstrate the ability to identify ethical issues in law practice contexts and make appropriate decisions to resolve such issues.