

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
LGL 110 – INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND THE PARALEGAL (1 CR.)

Course Description

Introduces various areas of law in which a paralegal may be employed. Includes study of the court system (Virginia and federal), as well as a brief overview of criminal law, torts, domestic relations, evidence, ethics, role of the legal assistant, and other areas of interest. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course is designed to acquaint the student with basic American law and with the role of the legal assistant.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Although there are no prerequisites for this course, proficiency (at the high school level) in spoken and written English is recommended for its successful completion.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Understand the sources of American law and the principles of the American justice system
- b) Understand the structure of and the procedures used in the federal and Virginia court systems
- c) Understand the roles and functions of legal assistants in both the public and the private sectors
- d) Understand the basic principles applicable to several fields of substantive law, including family law, criminal law, torts, contracts, evidence, and constitutional law
- e) Understand the ethical and professional rules of conduct which govern lawyers and legal assistants

Major Topics to be Included

- a) Overview of sources of American law and principles of American justice
- b) Overview of the legal assisting profession
- c) Overview of the federal and Virginia court systems
- d) Overview of civil and criminal procedure
- e) Overview of substantive family, criminal, tort, contract, evidentiary and constitutional law
- f) Overview of ethical rules governing lawyers and legal assistants