

**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, family law, evidence, evidence, the U.C.C., contracts, and ethics; the role of the paralegal; 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 paralegal.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisite or Corequisite: ENG 111.

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 paralegals 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 paralegals

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 paralegals