

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY LGL 225 - ESTATE PLANNING AND PROBATE (3 CR.)

Course Description

Introduces various devices used to plan an estate, including wills, trusts, joint ownership and insurance. Considers various plans in light of family situations and estate objectives. Focuses on practices involving administration of an estate including taxes and preparation of forms. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course is designed to give the student an understanding of the law governing transfers of property upon death and of the procedures used to administer a decedent's estate.

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 completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- understand the basic ways of passing property upon death
- understand the law governing wills, trusts and estates
- understand the law governing non-probate transfers
- understand the processes of informal and formal estate administration
- recognize and use the forms typically used in the processes of estate planning and estate administration
- assist a lawyer in every stage of estate planning and administration

Major Topics to Be Included

- property rights and death
- wills
- intestate succession
- testamentary and living trusts
- non-probate transfers of property
- family protection measure
- charitable gifts
- federal, state and local estate and gift taxes
- estate planning
- formal and informal probate
- the duties of personal representatives
- administering an estate

Extra Topics Which May Be Included

- personal choices in death and dying
- living wills and natural death statutes
- suicide and assisted suicide
- anatomical gifts
- durable powers of attorney for health care