

Family Law
Fall 2009
Prof. Hartfield

SYLLABUS

- Text: Areen & Regan, Cases and Materials on Family Law (5th ed. 2006).
- Secondary Sources: Clark, Domestic Relations (hornbook); McConaughey, Divorce, Alimony and Child Custody (practice book - Georgia law).
- Requirements: Regular attendance is required. Students with more than five (5) unexcused absences will not be permitted to sit for the final examination and will receive a failing grade in the course. Class participation is expected. Class participation may include problems, role plays, short written assignments, group projects, and court observation. A student who is unprepared will be considered absent. The instructor reserves the right to adjust final grades to reflect class participation or the lack thereof.
- Laptops, etc.: Students who want to use laptops in class must agree to limit use to note taking. An agreement will be distributed at the first class for laptop users. Cell phone use (text or voice) is prohibited in class. All cell phones should be turned off or set to silent. If an exception is needed to this policy, approval should be sought in advance.
- Grading: A student's grade will be based on the final examination and any adjustment to reflect class participation. Please note that all makeup examinations are arranged through the office of the registrar in accordance with the policies stated in the College of Law Bulletin.
- Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment or as available.
- Office: Room 413
- Telephone: (404)413-9180
- E-mail: bhartfield@gsu.edu
- NOTE: The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

ASSIGNMENTS*

Week 1	Defining Family Ch. 1, pp. 1-56; Ch.2, pp.57-99
Week 2	Marrying Ch. 2, pp. 99-146 Additional reading as assigned: <u>In re Marriage Cases</u> , 43 Cal.4th 757, 183 P.3d 384, 76Cal.Rptr.3d683(2008); <u>Straussv.Horton</u> , 46 Cal.4 th 364, 93 Cal.Rptr.3d 591(2009); <u>Varnum v. Brien</u> , 763 N.W.2d 862 (2009)
Week 3	Marriage Ch. 3, pp. 146-190, 201-216
Week 4 – Monday Holiday	[Optional: pp.238-281] Marriage Ch.3, pp.281-356
Week 5	Procreation Ch.7, pp.954-1016
Week 6	Adoption Ch.11, pp. 1304-1388
Week 7	Divorce Ch.4, pp. 357-428 Divorce Jurisdiction <u>Fink v. Fink</u> , 346 N.E.2d 415(1976) <u>Clagett v. King</u> , 308 A.2d 245(1973)
Week 8	Custody Ch. 5, pp. 429-436, 525-594
Week 9	Custody Ch.5, pp. 594-663
Week 10	Custody Ch. 5, pp. 663-696
Week 11	Property, Alimony and Child Support Ch. 6, pp. 696-782
Week 12	Property, Alimony and Child Support Ch. 6, pp. 782-846
Week 13	Property, Alimony and Child Support Ch. 6, pp. 846-881
Week 14	Professionalism TBA