

5222/21531 – INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW OF MEXICO

PROFESSOR IGNACIO PINTO–LEON

SYLLABUS AND RULES

SPRING 2022

WEDNESDAYS 4 - 6 PM

Contact info:

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Office hours:

Via Zoom or in-person, by appointment
713-338-2879

- (1) JAN. 19 – INTRODUCTION TO MEXICAN LEGAL HISTORY
 - Read chapters 1 and 2 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)
 - Supplementary readings:
 - The Legal Profession in Mexico, by Luis Fernando Perez–Hurtado

- (2) JAN. 26 – MEXICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: FEDERALISM AND SEPARATION OF POWERS
 - Read chapters 4 and 5 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)
 - Guest speaker: TBA

- (3) FEB. 2 – INTRODUCTION TO THE MEXICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM
 - Read chapters 3 and 6 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)

- (4) FEB. 9 – JUDICIAL ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
 - Read chapters 7 and 8 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)
 - Guest speaker: TBA

- (5) FEB. 16 – CIVIL PROCEDURE AND CONFLICTS OF LAWS
 - Read chapters 10 and 22 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)

- (6) FEB. 23 – INTRODUCTION TO THE MEXICAN CIVIL CODES
 - Read chapters 14 and 15 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)

- (7) MAR. 2 – OBLIGATIONS (CONTRACTUAL AND EXTRA-CONTRACTUAL)
 - Read chapter 17 of Mexican Law (photocopied materials)

- (8) MAR. 9 – MEXICAN CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE
 - Read Mexican Law chapter 11 (photocopied materials)

- Supplementary readings: Mexico's New Criminal Justice System: Substantial Progress and Persistent Challenges, by World Justice Project

(9) MAR. 23 – HOW TO RESEARCH MEXICAN LAW

- Supplementary reading: TBA

(10) MAR. 30 – MEXICAN COMMERCIAL LAW

- Read Mexican Law chapter 18 (photocopied materials)

(11) APR. 6 – PRACTICAL ASPECTS AND INTERACTIONS OF MEXICAN LAW WITH THE U.S. PRACTITIONER

- Supplementary reading: TBA
- Guest speak: TBA

(12) APR. 13 – ENERGY LAW / ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

- Read Mexican Law chapters 9 and 12 (photocopied materials)
- Guest speaker: TBA

(13) APR. 20 – THE **USMCA** (FORMERLY NAFTA): WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S OLD

- Guest speaker: TBA

(14) APR. 27 – FIESTA/TERTULIA/COURSE REVIEW

FINAL EXAM: Class Exam

Required texts in the course: photocopied course materials will be distributed before the beginning of the course. Supplementary reading materials will be distributed throughout the semester.

Attendance policy: Students are required to attend at least to 80% of the classes. There will be 14 sessions. If you missed 3 classes, you would be under the 80%

Student participation is expected. Students should be ready for class, with their assignments. Repeated unpreparation will be noted and could be used to mark down somebody's grade.

Grading info: the final grade will be based on a 2-hour open book final exam. The final exam will consist of a combination of essay, multiple choice and true/false questions.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html .

Sexual Misconduct Policy

The University is committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, there is a confidential reporting process available to you. For more information, please refer to the University system's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08, available here:

<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/uhs-policies/sams/01-general-information/index.php>

<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/docs/sam/01/1d7.pdf> (antidiscrimination)

<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/docs/sam/01/1d8.pdf> (sexual misconduct)

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Please note that the reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy reach to employees and students. Also, as a required reporting party, Law Center employees and faculty members are not a confidential resource.

Names and Pronouns

Chosen names and preferred pronouns (including non-binary ones such as they/them/their) must be respected in my classroom. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time if you want to make me aware of your chosen name or preferred pronoun, or if you have concerns about how I or your classmates address you.

Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Center for Students with DisABILITIES](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Syllabus Changes

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through e-mail.