

# **Loyola University New Orleans College of Law**

## **STREET LAW COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Professor Ramona Fernandez  
Fridays 11:00 a.m. to 12:15p.m.

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### **A. Loyola Expectations**

Street Law is a 3 credit course. Each student is expected to put in approximately 12 hours a week on the course. There is a weekly classroom component at Loyola Law School from 11-12:15 on Fridays. Students will teach in team of two. Each team is responsible for finding their teaching opportunity in cooperation with Ramona: Fernandez. Each student must turn in a weekly journal containing written lesson plans, a description of the classes taught, and a reflection on what was learned during the week.

Street Law this academic year is going to be extra challenging because of the many changes in our schools and other institutions resulting from Katrina. You will have to demonstrate flexibility, creativity, patience and solidarity in order to succeed. Things will not come easily this year – make sure you are up for a challenge before you start.

Street Law has two tracks – one for School Street Law and one for Community Street Law. Both tracks cover criminal, torts, consumer and housing, family and individual rights law.

School Street Law is taught in the day in middle and high schools in the metropolitan areas.

Community Street Law is be taught either in the day or evening in various community settings including shelters, adult learning centers, public housing developments, churches and correctional facilities.

For years, Loyola has provided law-related educational services in the greater New Orleans community. The purpose of Street Law is to provide

legal education to lay persons while also aiding in the professional development of law students. Street Law seeks to provide a greater understanding of the law to those outside the legal profession and promote the use of interactive educational methods to develop academic, critical thinking, and civic skills. Law students, as law teachers to middle and high school students and community members, are an integral part of these efforts.

### **What are the Requirements of the Street Law Program?**

First, you are expected to regularly attend class and participate in the weekly seminar;

Second, you must turn in weekly quality written lesson plans which evidence your planning and preparation to teach, including research of substantive law.

Third, you must demonstrate you are a great teacher. For those in the School Street Law Program, you will teach approximately 2 classes per week (usually 1-1 1/2 hours per class) in a metro middle or high school from September through Thanksgiving. For those in the Community Street Law Program, you will teach at least one evening class each week from September through Thanksgiving.

Fourth, you must turn in a weekly journal of your work;

Fifth, you are required to make 3, 10 minutes presentations to the weekly seminar.

### **What kind of preparation is necessary for Street Law?**

The basic textbook, Street Law: A Course in Practical Law, is provided to law students. The book is usually available to Street Law students as well, but may not be this year. Law students are encouraged to supplement this text with materials and methods of their own creation. Additional resources are available in the library.

You are expected to prepare a written lesson plan for each class. This plan should reflect your research and preparation for teaching. Model lessons and texts are provided, but you must adapt these materials to your own classes and your own individual style. As the law changes, you will need to update and modify materials.

### **How much time will the Street Law program require?**

Students teach 1-2 classes each week for a total

of approximately three hours of actual classroom time each week. Each class requires preparation time which varies depending on the lesson plan you are creating and your comfort and experience in the classroom (students report that as the semester goes on, planning takes up less time if a substantial amount of time was devoted up front). Students also must attend a weekly seminar designed to expose students to teaching methodology, lesson planning, and a substantive overview of the unit topics. Students are required to submit lesson plans and journals each week as well as meet with faculty.

### **Where will I teach as part of the School Street Law Program?**

Placements are determined by a number of factors, including

- What school fits into a student's class schedule;
- Student's work schedule or other activities
- Access to transportation; and
- Student preferences (every effort is made to match their preferences).

Most schools do not complete their semester schedules until after school gets started so until that time you will not know classroom placements or times. The key is to leave large blocks of time available in the mornings or afternoons.

### **How much time will the Community Street Law program require?**

Students teach at least one evening class each week at a community setting.. Each class requires preparation time, including research of the substantive law. Students must also attend a weekly seminar designed to expose students to teaching methodology, lesson planning, and a substantive overview of the various topics.

### **Where will I teach as part of the Community Street Law program?**

Depending on student and community interest, the course can be offered in transitional shelters, a church or community center, a public housing development, or a correctional facility.

### **Do I need a car?**

Although many schools are near public transportation, some are not. Thus, if at all possible,

you should try to obtain access to a car or team up with a person who has transportation. Especially for the Community Street Law classes, which may be taught in the evening, a car is highly desirable.

### **What about Safety?**

As in the case with all clinical legal programs that advocate directly for and with community members, you will travel into poor and sometimes dangerous neighborhoods. Given the neighborhoods of many of the middle and high schools, participation in Street Law carries some amount of risk. In deciding whether to enroll in this class, you should factor in whether you would feel comfortable traveling to and from your placement two to three times a week. While most middle and high schools have security staff and metal detectors, each year some schools report incidences of violence involving weapons. Loyola Street Law student instructors have never been involved in violent incidents in the schools and are instructed to avoid such situations.

### **How is Street Law graded?**

You will be graded on your preparations and execution of your responsibilities as a teacher. You must turn in your lesson plan for each class. This plan should reflect your research and preparation for teaching. We will ask the teachers on the site where you teach to evaluate you. Your grade will be based on all these factors including class participation, your journals, your lesson plans, your presentation to the class, your use of teaching materials and your ability to communicate.

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

Your final grade will be assessed as follows:

Evaluations of your presentations in class and class participation	10%
Classroom teaching evaluation	30%
Journals and lesson plans	40%
Final paper	20%

Attendance is Mandatory.

It is mandatory that you teach all public school classes for which you are assigned, with the exception of documented serious illness or cancellation due to the

public school's schedule (testing, pep rallies, etc.) If you must cancel a day of teaching in the schools, you must contact your on-site supervising teacher immediately, and Ramona Fernandez shortly thereafter. A make-up class must be scheduled.

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