

Electronic Discovery Course Syllabus

Professor Todd Cheesman
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Course Description: This course explores the developing issues and new rules and practices involving the application of e-discovery, digital evidence and computer forensics issues in litigation and general practice. Students will learn what electronic discovery is, and how the federal rules of civil procedure, the federal rules of evidence, and case law affect this aspect of litigation. This course will also discuss what an attorney and his team need to consider when handling Electronically Stored Information (ESI) prior to and during the litigation process, how to manage the cost of production and processing, and how those considerations should affect an attorney's thought process when working with this type of information. Students will learn how preservation obligations and spoliation claims can come into play.

NOTE: The most recent version of this syllabus supersedes all previous handouts and class information.

Class Schedule:

This class meets entirely online. Class begins Monday, January 18, 2011. I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, re-schedule a class, or change the order of class subject matters.

Reading:

Electronic Discovery and Digital Evidence: Cases and Materials (American Casebook) by Shira Scheindlin, Daniel J. Capra, and The Sedona Conference. Copyright: 2009. ISBN-13: 9780314191311. Readings for classes may be supplemented via email as necessary.

Contact:

When emailing me, please place the words "Electronic Discovery" or "E-Discovery" in the subject line. It will help prevent me from inadvertently deleting an email because I do not recognize the sender of the email.

You will need to contact me at the email address listed above ASAP to receive a username and password in order to access our webpage. You will need to access our webpage to access course materials including assignments and class lectures.

Grading:

30% - Assignments and Class Participation- Class readings are critical. Missing more than two assignments will result in a full grade reduction. Similarly, a lack of participation in our discussion forum will result in grade loss. Participation involves meaningful contribution and advancement of the discussion. Also, unexcused lateness of any assignment will be treated as your having missed the assignment.

70% - *Take home Exam*: A final take home exam that will be administered and returned online will account for 70 percent of your grade. This exam will consist of essay questions designed to measure your analytic and writing skills and application of subject knowledge.

Course Assignments: All assignments are due by noon, Saturday. Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances. The date each assignment is due is posted next to the Class number. For instance, Class 1 (January 22) means the assignment is due by January 22 at noon. 12:01 pm is considered late. I may acknowledge receipt of late assignments but they will not contribute toward your final grade.

Course Readings:

Readings and assignments will be posted on our website: cheesmanlaw.com