



MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF LAW at ANDOVER
SYLLABUS FOR CIVIL PROCEDURE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION -- Fall 2025
Professor Michael L. Coyne
Professor Amy Dimitriadis

Instructor: Professor Coyne - Email: coyne@mslaw.edu
Professor Dimitriadis - Email: Amyd@mslaw.edu
Web: www.mslaw.edu/mcoyne
Phone: 978.681.0800
Text: Pleading and Procedure, Hazard, Fletcher, Bundy and Bradt, 12th Edition. Find it used. READ AND BRIEF THREE CASES FOR EACH AND EVERY CLASS, INCLUDING FRIDAY'S REMOTE CLASS, UNLESS TOLD OTHERWISE. The first group of cases are in the supplemental packet of cases. Review the PowerPoint and 103 questions. The PowerPoint should be viewed, and you should complete the form as soon as possible. Also, Professor Dimitriadis has recorded 6 thirty-minute lectures on the major topics for this course. Download them and listen to them on the way to and from school and whenever you have the chance. Use your commuting time to help you understand the material better.

Class Times: Monday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. for day students.
Monday 9:00 p.m. – 10:20 p.m. and Wednesday 6:00 p.m. – 7:20 p.m. for evening students.

Friday's class is remote for both day and evening students and since it is asynchronous, you can access the material any time Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, and then go to Socrative.com for that week's questions. Each Section's questions must be answered prior to the beginning of the next group of cases on Monday.

On many Fridays, Professor Dimitriadis will hold civil procedure Zoom workshops from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. beginning on 9.5.

The link will be posted on TWEN prior to each workshop. If you have any questions regarding these workshops, kindly contact Professor Dimitriadis at amyd@mslaw.edu.

Make sure to register your WestLaw password so you can receive course communications and updates. If you haven't done so already, our IT department can help you. Contact dan@mslaw.edu or mick@mslaw.edu.

Scope: Federal and State Court Systems and the Rules of Civil Procedure

You must create and submit your outline for this course to me. The draft of the start of your outline is due October 6th before your midterm examination on October 8th. We have workshops that help you create good outlines which will help you succeed in law school. You should start working on your outline by the end of the second week of classes.

You will prepare a complaint that would be accepted for filing in a federal court. You will also take a final examination on December 8th (Monday).

Interesting Links:

www.law.cornell.edu -- Source for law

www.uscourts.gov -- U.S. Federal Courts Home Page

Course Objectives: The objective of this course is for the student to have a thorough understanding of the federal and state court systems and the rules and procedure that are used in those systems. The student will master this material in order to be better advocates, to resolve disputes to better serve their client's interests and to be excellent problem solvers and litigators.

Grading Criteria: The outline you prepare for this course, your quiz scores, midterm examination, oral presentation, lack of class participation and final examination will all contribute to your final grade in this class. This is your first step in the legal profession and you are expected to be fully prepared, professional and respectful to each other, and to the faculty and staff.

There is supplemental material including an audio review and Power Point presentation online and in the media lab to help you master the material.

ASSIGNMENTS DUE FOR EACH CLASS

Class 1

8.18.25:

The Methods of Resolving Disputes.

The various methods of conflict resolution include:

Federal Court Litigation, State Court Litigation, Negotiation,

Minitrial, Fact Finding, Settlement Conference, Private Judging, Conciliation, Multi-door Courthouse Center, Mediation, Arbitration, Early Neutral Evaluation, Dispute Review Board, Collaborative law, Cooperative Law, Summary Jury Trial, Partnering, Facilitation, Med-arb, and Bucking-up.

After we discuss this in class, please EMAIL me your thoughts on the five most important concepts in how you resolve disputes. Please refine these concepts to one or two words which would constitute the five "Do's and Don'ts" of being better at resolving disputes. Please rank these in order of importance so that your first of the five "Do's" is the concept you believe to be the most important concept in effectively resolving disputes.

Overview of the rules, procedure and court system for conflict resolution. An introduction to the adversary system (End of Chapter One). Remedies and damages issues.

Class 2

8.20.25:

Weinberger v. Romero Barcelo
Seffert v. Los Angeles Transit
B.M.W. v. Gore

Class 3

8.22.25:

Due Process and Defenses
Rules 4 and 12
U.S. v. Kubrick
Connecticut v. Doeher
Commonwealth v. Olivo

Week of

8.25.25:

Chapter 2
Choosing the proper court. *Phillips Petroleum v. Shutts*
How does the choice of jurisdiction affect the outcome of cases?
Use textbook and skip Pennoyer and Harris and start with International Shoe at page 58. For this class and from this point on until you receive the schedule for the final month of our class, you should read and brief the 3 cases in your textbook that follow in sequence from the last case we discussed in our previous class.

9.1.25:

Labor Day – Off

9.3 & 9.5.25:

Problems with “jurisdiction.”

Week of

9.8.25:

Long Arm Statutes, Notice, and Consenting to or Objecting to Jurisdiction. Also, find and read Ford Motor Co. 592 U.S. 354

(2021) WL 1132545.

- 9.15.25: Subject Matter Jurisdiction.
- 9.22.25: Subject Matter Jurisdiction continued and Venue.
Federal Question, Diversity and Removal Jurisdiction as a basis to
be in Federal Court. First review question.
- 9.29.25: The Erie Problem pleading issues and responding of the
Complaint.
- 10.6.25 Discuss first problem.
- 10.8.25 Midterm Examination
- 10.10.25 Responding to the Complaint—the Three Testing Motions.
- 10.13.25: Indigenous Peoples' Day – No Class
- Week of**
10.15.25 and 10.17: Joinder, impleader, intervention and parties to the party.

**I will give you a class-by-class schedule of each day's assignment for the
month of November.**

- 10.20.25: Discovery, including electronic discovery, and begin Summary
Judgment.
- 10.27.25: Complaint exercise.
- 10.29 & 10.31.25: Finish Summary Judgment.
- 11.3.25: Discuss completion of your outline with your group and continue
revising.
- November 6, 2025 Appeals Court Hearing at MSL.
- 11.5 & 11.7.25: Post-Trial Motions.
- Week of**
11.10.25: Res Judicata and Collateral Estoppel.

11.17.25:	ADR.
11.19.25	Review Midterm examination and Key Concepts
11.21.25:	Finish Cases on Post Trial Issues
11.24.25:	Jeopardy
11.26.25:	Review Material and Examination Issues.
11.27 & 11.28.25:	Thanksgiving Break.
12.1.25:	Questions and Discuss Final Examination
LAST DAY OF CLASSES	
12.8.25	Final Examination.

Professor Coyne – Civil Procedure Overview

