

IMMIGRATION LAW & PRACTICE
Massachusetts School of Law
Fall 2025 Semester
Syllabus

Professor Tania Martinez
Gomez & Martinez, LLC
286 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 01840
Tel: (508) 304-3813
Email: taniamartinez@msslaw.edu

Class Time: Tuesdays, 4:30pm – 7:20pm
Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Course Description:

This course provides an in-depth introduction to U.S. immigration law and policy, with a dual emphasis on legal theory and practical application. Students will explore the constitutional, statutory, and regulatory frameworks governing the admission, exclusion, removal, and naturalization of non-citizens. The course highlights real-world lawyering skills, including client interviewing, ethical considerations, and procedural requirements for filings with USCIS, EOIR, and ICE. Current developments and key policy debates in immigration law will also be examined throughout the semester.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Interpret and apply key provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)
- Understand the structure, roles, and jurisdiction of U.S. immigration agencies and courts
- Assess eligibility for immigration benefits and relief in family-based, employment-based, humanitarian, and removal contexts
- Draft basic immigration filings and client advisories
- Identify and evaluate ethical considerations and advocacy strategies in immigration practice

Required Textbooks:

- **American Immigration Lawyers Association**, *Navigating the Fundamentals of Immigration Law: Guidance and tips for Successful Practice*, 2025-26 Edition (AILA, 2025) (PDF Textbook, **provided at no charge**)
- Supplemental Materials & Weekly Readings will be provided

Grading:

- **Class Participation & Preparation:** 25%
- **Practical Assignments:** 35%
- **Final Exam (Bond Motion and Argument before an Immigration Judge):** 40%

Weekly Schedule & Topics:

Week	Date	Topic
1	Aug 12	Course Introduction, History of U.S. Immigration Law & Hot Topics
2	Aug 19	Agencies that Affect Immigration Law
3	Aug 26	Ethical Issues & the Role of the Immigration Attorney
4	Sep 2	Employment-Based Immigration
5	Sep 9	Family-Based Immigration
6	Sep 16	Adjustment of Status vs. Consular Processing
7	Sep 23	Naturalization & Citizenship
8	Sep 30	VAWA, U Visas & T Visas
9	Oct 7	Asylum, Withholding, CAT
10	Oct 14	TPS, DACA, Special Immigrant Juveniles
11	Oct 21	Crimmigration: Intersection of Criminal & Immigration Law
12	Oct 28	Inadmissibility Waivers
13	Nov 4	Removal Proceedings
14	Nov 11	Relief in Removal Proceedings
15	Nov 18	Detention & Bond
16	Nov 25	Habeas Litigation

Note: The syllabus is subject to adjustment to reflect guest speakers, recent developments, or the pace of the class.

Attendance & Participation:

Consistent attendance is required. Students are expected to complete readings and actively participate in discussions. Absences without good cause may affect your final grade.

Academic Integrity:

All work must be your own. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will be reported and may result in disciplinary action.