

Department: HISTORY

Course number: 3551 W

Course title: Topics in U.S. Legal History

Credits: 3

Contact Person: Sherri Olson

Q/W: W

Catalog Copy: HIST 3551W [248W]. Topics in U.S. Legal History. 3 credits. Open to juniors or higher. Dayton.

Introduction to legal culture and appellate case materials from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. Topics include: child custody and family law, the courts' role in industrial development, the law of slavery and freedom in the North, and various aspects of civil rights.

W Criteria

1. The course requires four papers of 6-8 pages each. These are analytical responses to an interpretive question posed about the materials constituting a 3-week Unit on a particular legal topic. The papers account for 75% of the grade, and students are also asked at times to complete in-class writings; these count for a small portion of the remaining 25% of the grade.

2. The primary modes of writing instruction include: 1) workshops held in class on good writing practices, organizing essays, documentation, and legal citations; 2) extensive written feedback on all papers, from the instructor; 3) individual conferences to discuss Papers 1 and 2.

3. The course requires all students to submit a re-write of Papers 1 & 2, after meeting with the instructor for a conference.

4. The syllabus informs students that they must pass the "W" component of the course in order to pass the course.