COURSE NAME: Estates & Trusts

CATALOG NUMBER: 611

PROFESSOR: Cheslik

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Property I and II

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE BOOKS REQUIRED:
Photocopy Supplement of Missouri Statutes (will be made available on TWEN)

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
Your grade in this course will be derived as follows:
100% Comprehensive 3-hour final exam.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
Much of “Property Law” consists of the rules governing transfers of property, including those transfers that occur at death. Estates & Trusts introduces students to the fundamental concepts and rules regarding such transfers as well as to their history and future. Not everyone will ever be arrested, some will never pay much attention to the standardized contracts that bind them, a few will never need to worry about family law or juvenile law, but everyone will die and have relatives, friends and clients die, making Estates & Trusts, a very odd and specialized field with many technical components, one of the most universally recognized, respected, and required areas of legal expertise.

COURSE CONTENT AND OUTCOMES:
This course will introduce students to the three principal methods for transferring property at death – Inheritance, Wills, and Non-probate Transfers. By the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1.) Explain the policies behind death transfers of property;
2.) Explain the basic concepts governing probate administration;
3.) Analyze how a probate estate will be distributed under three predominate intestate inheritance schemes:
   a. The English Common Law System of strict per stirpes;
   b. The Missouri statutory system based on the original UPC;
   c. The modern UPC system of per capita at each generation.
4.) Explain, apply and analyze statutory requirements of a valid will under two different statutory schemes:
5.) Explain and Analyze common forms of non-probate transfers.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:
- Essential for any student interested in a career in estate planning.
- Extremely advisable for students interested in careers in general law, family law, and elder law.
- Very helpful for all students and lawyers.
- Inevitably useful for anyone alive now but planning to die.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION:
- E&T is not tested on the MBE.
- Subjects covered in this course are among those most frequently tested on the essay portion of most bar exams.
- Subjects covered in this course are also frequent subject areas for the Multistate Performance Test.