

Pre-Law Institute Marist Summer Pre-College Summer 2025

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PLEASE reach out with any questions or concerns. I am here to help you learn.

Course Description: Introduction to Law

The Pre-Law Institute introduces students to the primary sources of law. This course provides an overview of the major areas of the law such as constitutional, criminal, civil litigation, family, real property, contracts, and wills. Students are exposed to the roles of the judge, prosecutor, attorney and paralegal, as well as to ethical and professional responsibilities attendant to the field. Students are prepared to continue the subject-specific courses with sufficient background and foundation to make them meaningful.

Transfer credit posts as:

POS102L-111 Introduction to Law (3 credits)

Student Learning Outcomes:

- The students will become familiar with the Constitutional basis of the American Judicial System.
- The student will develop an understanding of such concepts as: judicial power, trial, family law, contracts, torts, real property, personal property, wills, and criminal law
- The students will recognize the distinct types of law: case, statutory, regulations, constitutional, ordinances, treaties etc.
- The students will begin case briefing and case analysis as a means of understanding the law.

Pre-Assignment:

The goal of the pre-assignments for Introduction to Law is to expose students to law as a powerful agent for change within society.

1. The Right to Counsel ([Gideon v. Wainwright](#),)

Watch *Gideon's Trumpet* (This movie is from 1980 and Henry Fonda stars as Gideon. This movie is widely available on YouTube)

Watch the C-span video about the Landmark Cases: Gideon v. Wainwright:

<https://www.c-span.org/clip/landmark-cases/gideon-v-wainwright-the-decision/4720781>

Write a reflection essay answering the three questions below. Your essay should be two to three pages, double spaced, and use Arial size 14 font. Upload your essay on Brightspace.

1. Identify the areas of injustice that existed during the early 1960s and had an impact on the criminal justice system. Many of these were readily apparent during Gideon's trial and not addressed by securing him an attorney.
2. Why was the US Supreme Court's decision to remand for retrial not considered to be double jeopardy?
3. Describe in specific terms how Gideon's assigned attorney helped achieve a different outcome at the second trial.

2. The Law of Torts

Visit the American Museum of Tort Law by taking the virtual tour of all the museum's exhibits: <https://www.tortmuseum.org/>. You may organize your visit over several days, so you return for several days to spend time at each exhibit and listen to the video presentations. The following instructions will help you keep track of your progress.

After you select virtual tour, click on "the menu" (the circle with straight lines going across it) located on the upper left-hand side of the computer screen as it is facing you.

Welcome & Timeline

Copy the quote from Justice Hand so you can refer to it during the tour.

Look at the Timeline and write an overview of the development of tort law from 13th Century England to 1990s in United States.

Precedent Setting Cases

Look at the Precedent Setting Cases featured in Stop 2, Stop 3, and Stop 4:

Select one case for each Stop2, Stop3, and Stop 4. Write brief summaries of each case you selected at each of the three stops and explain why you selected that case to provide insight to the development of American Tort Law.

Cases that Made a Difference

Finally, you will visit the exhibit of each of the five cases that made a difference. For each of the five cases, summarize the key points of the case. Remember the quote from Justice Hand that you copied when you began the virtual tour, and for each case explain how the specific victory in that case was significant in preserving justice for the injured party and justice for all.

Watch the “Sports and Torts” Video

Go to the Museum’s Video Page (<https://www.tortmuseum.org/videos/>) and select Panel Discussions. Select the video titled: “Sports and Torts.” Listen to this video and use the information from the video to write a one-page essay that argues in either in favor or against the emerging areas of torts involving sports.

3. The Development of the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause

Complete a self-guided lesson from Street Law’s LandmarkCases.Org:

You will have a timeline of events relevant to the development of the Equal Protection Clause and short excerpts from several decisions of the United States Supreme Court where the court applied the equal protection clause. You will answer questions relevant to the materials you are reading.

All written work can be uploaded into Brightspace.