

Civil Procedure

Elon Law School
Fall 2020
Days & Times TBD
Location TBD

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Description

In this course, you will learn about the procedures for civil suits. You will also learn how to understand and use primary legal texts (constitutions, statutes, rules, & judicial opinions) as tools for analyzing legal problems and making legal arguments. While the course will focus on federal courts, the rules of civil procedure in many states (including North Carolina) are similar.

Topics to be covered include the scope of a lawsuit, selection of an appropriate forum, presentation of claims and defenses, choice of applicable law, disposition without a trial, and the effect of judgments on future litigation. Other aspects of civil litigation (e.g., discovery, trials, & appeals) are covered in upper-level elective courses.

Materials

Required

Gerald Hess, et al, Civil Procedure: A Context & Practice Casebook (Carolina Academic Press, 2d ed. 2019)

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Judicial Statutes, & Restatements. Available online (see [Links](#) page on course website)

Study Aids

The course website, emfink.net/CivilProcedure, has subject outlines, visual aids, practice problems, past exam questions, and other resources.

There are numerous published study aids available for Civil Procedure. Two good options are Joseph W. Glannon, Examples & Explanations: Civil Procedure (8th ed., 2018) or The Glannon Guide to Civil Procedure (4th ed., 2018).

Policies

Grading

Your final grade for the term will be based on a midterm exam (40%) and a final exam (60%). The midterm will be a take-home exam. The final will be a closed-book/closed-notes exam. These will consist of short-answer and essay questions. Dates for the midterm and final exams are indicated in the Class Schedule & Assignments section below.

There will also be online review quizzes during the term (as indicated in the Class Schedule & Assignments section below). These quizzes are intended as diagnostic tools to assess your understanding of the concepts and help focus your efforts in preparing for the midterm and final exams. They will be ungraded, but completion of each quiz is required to receive course credit.

Class Preparation, Attendance, & Participation

Successful performance in this course depends on completion of all reading assignments before class, regular and prompt class attendance, and constructive engagement during class.

Elon Law School's standards and ABA guidance for awarding course credit assume at least two hours of out-of-class student work for each hour of classroom instruction.

Elon Law School has adopted the following attendance policy for all courses:

The Law School administers a policy that a student maintain regular and punctual class attendance in all courses in which the student is registered, including externships, clinical courses, or simulation courses. Faculty members will give students written notice of their attendance policies before or during the first week of class. These policies may include, but are not limited to: treating late arrivals, early departures, and/or lack of preparation as absences; imposing grade or point reductions for absences, including assigning a failing grade or involuntarily withdrawing a student from the class; and any other policies that a professor deems appropriate to create a rigorous and professional classroom environment.

In case of illness or emergency, students may contact the Office of Student and Professional Life, which will then notify the student's instructors. A student may notify the faculty member directly of a planned absence and should refer to individual faculty members regarding any policy that may apply. In the case of prolonged illness or incapacity, the student should contact the Office of Student and Professional Life.

Disability Accommodations

For disability accommodation requests, contact the Elon Law Registrar's Office.

Honor Code

The Law School honor code applies to all activities related to your law school study, including conduct during class and examinations.

Class Schedule & Assignments

Note: Many of the topics covered in this course are governed by federal statutes and rules. It is essential that you read the assigned statutes and rules carefully, along with the casebook.

1. Introduction

Date (1 day)

- Casebook, Chapter 1
- William Felstiner, Richard Abel, & Austin Sarat, "The Emergence & Transformation of Disputes: Naming, Blaming, & Claiming", 15 Law & Society Review 630 (1981)
- Russel Wheeler & Cynthia Harrison, "Creating the Federal Judicial System", Federal Judicial Center (3d ed. 2005)
- Administrative Office of U.S. Courts, "Understanding the Federal Courts"

2. Shaping the Lawsuit: Parties and Claims

Joining Claims

Date (2 days)

- FRCP Rule 18
- Casebook, 403-

Counterclaims & Crossclaims

Date (2 days)

- FRCP Rule 13
- Casebook,

Joining Parties

Date (1 day)

- FRCP Rule 20
- Casebook, 422-

Adding Third-Parties

Date (1 day)

- FRCP Rule 14
- Casebook,

Required Parties

Date (1 day)

- FRCP Rule 19
- Cases

Quiz: Joinder (Due Date)

3. Choosing a Forum, Part 1: Personal Jurisdiction

Foundations of Personal Jurisdiction

Date (1 day)

- U.S. Constitution, Amendments 5 & 14
- FRCP Rule 12(b)(2)
- Casebook, 23-36

Specific Jurisdiction Based on Minimum Contacts

Date (3-5 days)

- Casebook, 36-79; 96-106

General Jurisdiction

Date (1 day)

- Casebook, 79-95

Quiz: Personal Jurisdiction (Due Date)

4. Choosing a Forum, Part 2: Subject Matter Jurisdiction

Foundations of Federal Subject Matter Jurisdiction

Date (1 day)

- U.S. Constitution, Art. III, § 2
- FRCP Rule 12(b)(1)
- Casebook, 153-57

Diversity Jurisdiction

Date (2 days)

- 28 U.S.C. § 1332
- Casebook, 157-80

Federal Question Jurisdiction

Date (2 days)

- 28 U.S.C. § 1331
- Casebook, 180-205

Supplemental Jurisdiction

Date (2 days)

- 28 U.S.C. § 1367
- Casebook, 205-17

Removal

Date (2 days)

- 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441, 1446, 1447, 1448
- Casebook, 217-18

Quiz: Subject Matter Jurisdiction (Due Date)

Midterm Exam (Due Date)

5. Choice of Law

Vertical Choice of Law: State or Federal?

Date (4 days)

- Rules of Decision Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1652
- Rules Enabling Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2072, 2073, 2074
- Casebook, 266-311

Horizontal Choice of Law: Which State?

Date (1-2 days)

- Restatement (2d) of Conflicts of Law, §§ 6, 145, 187, 188,
- Casebook, 311-25

Quiz: Choice of Law (Due Date)

6. Pleading

Pleading Under the Federal Rules

Date (1 day)

- FRCP Rules 7-10
- Casebook, 327-30

Complaints

Date (2-3 days)

- FRCP Rules 8(a), 9(b), 12(b)(6)
- Casebook, 330-63

Answers & Defenses

Date (1 day)

- FRCP Rule 8(b) & (c)
- Casebook, 363-70

Amended Pleadings

Date (2 days)

- FRCP Rule 15
- Casebook, 370-86

Truthfulness & Good Faith in Pleadings

Date (2 days)

- FRCP Rule 11
- Casebook, 386-401

Quiz: Pleadings (Due Date)

7. Summary Judgment

Date (2 days)

- FRCP Rules 12(d) & 56
- Casebook, 609-35

8. Preclusion

Foundations of Claim & Issue Preclusion

Date (1 day)

- Restatement (2d) of Judgments, §§ 13-17
- Casebook,

Claim Preclusion

Date (2 days)

- Restatement (2d) of Judgments, §§ 18-26
- Casebook, 761-82

Issue Preclusion

Date (2 days)

- Restatement (2d) of Judgments, §§ 27-29
- Casebook, 782-807

Quiz: Summary Judgment & Preclusion (Due Date)

Final Exam (Date)