

Conflict of Laws
Professor Michael Solimine
Spring 2011
Introduction to the Course

1. *Main syllabus*

I will have the one-page, main syllabus for the entire semester posted on the UC website. It gives you an idea of what topics and pages we'll cover. I'll discuss the coverage of the course in our first class.

2. *Required Class Materials*

The required material is the casebook, Lea Brilmayer & Jack Goldsmith, Conflict of Laws: Cases and Materials (Aspen, 5th ed., 2002). The authors are currently preparing a new edition but it is not ready for adoption for Spring 2011 courses. I will supplement the casebook with more recent material that I'll post on TWEN or otherwise make available at no cost.

3. *Study Aid*

No study aid is required. I recommended one study aid, Michael Hoffheimer, Conflict of Laws: Examples & Explanations (Aspen 2010). I do not intend to refer to that aid or any other in class.

4. *Mini-syllabi and TWEN*

I have prepared a mini-syllabus for each class, which has assigned pages for each class, and questions and comments on the cases and materials on those pages which you can ponder before each class. I will post the mini-syllabi on TWEN (www.lawschool.westlaw.com) before each class. I will also periodically post on TWEN other material and information relevant to the class, which I'll expect you to read as well.

5. *Specially Prepared Students*

To get everyone involved in class discussion, I will ask 2 or 3 students ahead of time to be "specially prepared" for a forthcoming class. Participation by non-specially prepared students in each class is of course welcome and expected as well. Everyone should expect to be specially prepared three or four times during the semester.

6. *Seating Chart and Attendance*

I will hand out a seating chart in the second or third class. The attendance policy is that you are expected to attend every class. If important professional or personal reasons, or some other circumstance, prevent you from attending a particular class, I will consider it a professional courtesy to myself and your classmates if you would tell me (not the whole class) ahead of that class or, if that's not possible, after the class. I will keep attendance, and reserve the right to take attendance into account in grading (see below). Excessive absences may be cause for not being permitted to take the exam.

7. *Grading*

The final grade will be based primarily, though not exclusively, on the final exam. Unless I tell you otherwise, the final exam will consist of essay questions, and will be partial open-book, meaning you

may take any materials into the exam room, *except* for commercially prepared outlines, nutshells, hornbooks, etc (including the study aid I recommended). Before the exam I will post on TWEN at least one copy of a prior exam for this course. In assigning a final grade, in addition to your performance on the final exam, I will also take into account class attendance and participation. In the past, I have typically used one or more grade levels to reflect these latter factors, in addition to my grading of the final exam (e.g., possibly raising a grade from B to B+).

8. *Laptops and Accessing the Internet in Class*

Laptops or other electronic devices are ok in class for note-taking or other class-related activities. However, as a matter of professionalism, civility, and courtesy to your classmates and myself, I will ask you to voluntarily not use those devices during class to surf the internet, or to engage in other activities unrelated to the class (e.g., playing games). If voluntary compliance proves impossible, I reserve the right to ban or limit the use of these devices during class.

9. *Contacting Me and office hours*

I can be contacted at michael.solimine@uc.edu. I typically do not post office hours, since I'm usually in each weekday during regular business hours. You are welcome to come by at any time, with or without an appointment.