

**Property, Fall 2024**  
**Prof. Gallanis**

**Books:**

Burke, Burkhart & Gallanis, Fundamentals of Property Law, 5th ed. 2020, Carolina Academic Press, ISBN 9781531016586.

Gallanis, Estates, Future Interests, and Powers of Appointment in a Nutshell, 7th ed. 2024, West Academic Publishing, ISBN 9798892098779, available in late August or early September. We shall use this in connection with Chapter 3.

Students should bring physical copies of the books, not electronic versions, to class and to the final examination. The final examination will be “secure”: no electronic materials may be consulted, but students may consult materials in hard copy.

**Course Supplement:** There is a Course Supplement, available in hard copy from my faculty assistant, Jane Barton, in Room 308 Hazel Hall.

**Syllabus:** The full syllabus for the course, including the assignment for the first class session, will be available in Canvas.

**Policy on student use of electronic devices during class:**

Empirical studies indicate that the use of electronic devices during a class session has negative effects, including increasing the level of distraction, reducing the comprehension of the material, and hurting the students’ eventual grades. The negative effects extend beyond the user; other students also are affected. These data are worrying, and they align with my experience as a professor.

Law school exams are typically not about rote memorization and regurgitation. Law school education succeeds when you make eye contact with the person speaking and put yourself in his or her shoes, working through the case law, statutes, and problems as if you were in the Socratic spotlight. This trains you, so that you can successfully confront unfamiliar fact-patterns. In any given hour, our minds will wander occasionally; this is natural. But I urge you to resist the lure of electronic devices. Do not be a “courtroom stenographer,” mindlessly capturing every syllable. Process the information you are hearing. Think more, and write less. I am noticing that the students with good grades in my courses do not use electronic devices in class.

I do not want to take the step of banning electronic devices. Instead, I encourage students voluntarily to refrain from using electronic devices during class unless the student has an ADA accommodation or otherwise has a compelling need to use the device during class. I trust you to make this judgment yourself, but please keep in mind the empirical evidence that the use of electronic devices during class has negative effects on the learning of the user and other students.