

Property, Fall 2026
Prof. Gallanis

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

Books:

Burke, Gallanis & Burkhart, Fundamentals of Property Law, 6th ed. 2025, Carolina Academic Press, ISBN 9781531025403.

Gallanis, Estates, Future Interests, and Powers of Appointment in a Nutshell, 7th ed. 2024, West Academic Publishing, ISBN 9798892098779.

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. Her name and contact information are in the full syllabus on Canvas.

Course policy on student use of electronic devices during class:

[Note to students: The faculty may adopt a policy modeled on the policy at UChicago Law. If the faculty adopts a policy, that policy will govern instead of the below.]

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 courses and exams are not about rote memorization. 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.

You will be aware of the decision made by the University of Chicago Law School to remove all electronic devices from the classroom in doctrinal courses, especially 1L doctrinal courses, such as property. This decision has a sound basis. *In the courses I teach, I am noticing that the students who do well on the final exam have not used laptops or other devices in class.*

I am very close to reaching the same decision as UChicago: an outright ban. However, I am trying an experiment this semester. I am asking students voluntarily to refrain from using electronic devices during class unless the student has an ADA accommodation.

Excerpt from course policy on AI, in addition to the restrictions in Academic Regulation

4-3: Students may not upload course material, whether from this semester or from a prior semester—including assignments, readings, slides, class recordings, or other class content including prior final examinations—into AI systems.