

Trusts & Estates, Fall 2026
Prof. Gallanis

(The full course syllabus and reading list, plus other materials, will be available in Canvas.)

The assigned books for the course are:

Gallanis, Family Property Law: Cases and Materials on Wills, Trusts, and Estates, 9th ed. 2024, Foundation Press, ISBN 9798887864068.

Gallanis, Uniform Trust and Estate Statutes, 2026-2027 Edition, Foundation Press, ISBN 9798317704421.

Students should purchase physical books, not electronic versions, and should bring the physical books to each class session 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 policy on student use of electronic devices during class:

My experience teaching the Trusts & Estates course at Scalia Law causes me to be concerned about the effect of student use of electronic devices during class.

Empirical studies indicate that the use of electronic devices during a class session has negative effects. It reduces the comprehension of the material and hurts the students’ eventual grades. The negative effects extend beyond the user; other students also are affected.

These empirical studies align with my experience as a professor.

I urge you to resist the lure of the laptop. Taking notes by hand improves comprehension and retention of the material. 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 am adopting the following policy this semester. I ask students voluntarily to refrain from using electronic devices during the Trusts & Estates 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.

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.