

SYLLABUS

CONFLICT OF LAWS

Spring 2026
3 CREDIT HOURS

PART 1: COURSE DETAILS	2
CONTACT INFORMATION	2
COURSE DESCRIPTION	2
PREREQUISITES	2
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	3
PART 2: MATERIALS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS	3
READINGS	3
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS	3
PART 3: ACCESSING THE COURSE	3
COURSE SITE (D2L)	3
PART 4: COURSE STRUCTURE	4
OVERVIEW	4
CONTENT DELIVERY	4
ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES	4
PART 5: STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES	5
MANAGING YOUR STUDIES	5
RESPECTING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY	5
INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS	6
PART 6: GRADES AND GRADING POLICIES	6
GRADED COURSE ACTIVITIES	6
GRADING POLICIES	6
PART 7: OTHER COURSE POLICIES	7
ATTENDANCE	7
SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS	7
PART 8: COURSE TOPICS	7
PART 9: COURSE SCHEDULE	8

SYLLABUS

CONFLICT OF LAWS

FALL 2025

3 CREDIT HOURS

PART 1: COURSE DETAILS

CONTACT INFORMATION

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

Instructor: Thomas Main

Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail: thomas.main@unlv.edu

Best way to contact: Email

Reply policy: I will try and respond to e-mails within 24 hours. If you do not receive a reply to your e-mail within a reasonable period of time, please send it again. Sometimes e-mail is captured by a SPAM filter, is addressed incorrectly, or simply does not get sent.

TECH SUPPORT

For technical support in your online course, please contact the Helpdesk at:

Phone: 800-472-8899

Email: support@lawstudentonline.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the legal issues that arise when transactions or events cut across state or national boundaries. Attention is principally devoted to the study of determining the law that governs the parties' rights and liabilities. States use several different approaches to determine the applicable law, and all approaches are included in this course. Secondary attention is devoted to personal jurisdiction and to the enforcement of judgments.

PREREQUISITES

Civil Procedure.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **Analysis and Decision-Making.** Students will learn to recognize, analyze, and evaluate the doctrines that constrain and introduce strategic choices. This is explored both in the context of reviewing court opinions and in simulations.
- **Legal Knowledge.** Students will learn doctrines pertaining to choice of law, personal jurisdiction, and the enforcement of judgments. These doctrines are grounded in the U.S. Constitution, federal and state statutes, and the common law.
- **Policy Evaluation.** Students will learn to identify and understand the various forces involved in and policies influencing procedural doctrines. Many doctrines involve trade-offs between admirable ends.

PART 2: MATERIALS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READINGS

REQUIRED TEXT

Learning Conflict of Laws, 2d edition, by Thomas Main & Peter McCaffrey. ISBN: 9798317701499.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS & OTHER READINGS

Professor may supplement the assigned reading with handouts.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to meet basic technology requirements to successfully participate in this online course. Failure to meet these requirements may cause problems accessing the course materials. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all requirements are met prior to the start of the course.

- Access to the Internet is required. While any browser can be used, Firefox and Chrome are recommended.
- Access to D2L and Online Office Hours Tool (Ex. Zoom). See Part 3: Accessing the Course for more details.
- You will need the capability to speak and hear so you can watch videos and participate in any live sessions. Make sure that the device(s) you will be using have a microphone and speakers or that you have access to a headset. A webcam is optional but not required.

PART 3: ACCESSING THE COURSE

TIME ZONES

Please note that this course is setup to run in the Eastern Time zone. Check your syllabus for all assignment deadlines. Modules close on Sundays at 11:59 PM ET.

Eastern	Central	Mountain	Pacific
11:59 PM	10:59 PM	9:59 PM	8:59 PM

Daylight Saving Time (DST): Daylight Saving Time may impact when your assignments are due.

As a student in a distance education course, it is your responsibility to learn and observe the time deadlines for assignments. Late work will not be accepted due to time zone differences.

COURSE SITE (D2L)

The course will be taught entirely online in an asynchronous environment using the Learning Management System – Desire2Learn (D2L).

The course is designed to give students a dynamic online learning experience. Students will receive notice of a student orientation which will familiarize you with the basics of navigating this platform. Students will also receive their log in information (username and password) via email.

To access the course:

1. Go to: <https://mycourses.lawonline.me>.
2. Enter the username and password you have been provided.
3. Locate and click on the course name under *My Courses*.
 - a. If you have trouble logging in, please contact the Helpdesk at 800-472-8899 or via email at support@lawstudentonline.com

PART 4: COURSE STRUCTURE

OVERVIEW

The course is organized around a weekly schedule that will begin each Saturday 12:01 AM and end the following Sunday 11:59 PM. Because this is an intensive course, a typical week will cover multiple modules--with each module including readings, video lectures, discussion questions, assignments, and quizzes. Any assignments for a given module will normally be due at the end of the weekly period unless otherwise indicated.

CONTENT DELIVERY

COURSE LECTURES

Generally, there will be about 100-120 minutes of course lecture videos to watch each week. These videos will be linked to from the course site.

READINGS

Readings will be assigned for each module. You should expect to spend about 7-10 hours on reading for each week

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION BOARD

There will be graded discussion board questions throughout the course. The instructions for these posts are included in the assignments.

The initial postings must be completed by 11:59 pm on the date indicated in the Course Schedule table below (Part 9), and the responses to your classmates, when required, must be posted by 11:59 pm on the date listed in that Course Schedule. Your answers should demonstrate a mastery of the material assigned at that point in the course. You should expect to spend at least 1 hour per week on the discussion boards.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be both graded and ungraded assignments throughout the course. Even ungraded assignments are "graded" for participation; failing to complete the assignment will result in a loss of participation points.

QUIZZES

There will be quizzes throughout the course. The quizzes are "graded" for participation; failing to complete the assignment will result in a loss of participation points.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be given during the final exam period. There will be more information in the Final Exam module of the course later in the semester.

PART 5: STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

MANAGING YOUR STUDIES

The following attributes will greatly contribute to your success in this course.

- *Be self-motivated.* You should be able to manage and direct your own learning environment and methods to fulfill course requirements and achieve individual academic success.
- *Be an independent learner.* Successful online students are self-starters. They work well with the flexibility that the 24/7 any time--any place format provides. You should be able to learn on your own and at an accelerated pace without direct supervision.
- *Have a minimum level of computer literacy.* Although it is not essential to have advanced computer skills, you should possess a working knowledge of e-mail, the Internet, as well as basic keyboarding skills.
- *Manage your time well.* You must be able to organize and plan your own best "time to learn." There is no one best time for everyone, but the key to success is to make the time to learn.
- *Utilize effective communication skills.* You must use e-mail and discussions to communicate with your peers and me. The ability to read and to write clearly in order to communicate ideas and assignments is essential. Also, sharing reflections - of your own work as well as your course mates' - is a crucial component of a successful experience. This method provides you with rapid feedback as well as a means to inform me of any concerns or problems that you may be experiencing.
- *Be personally committed to successfully completing this online course.* Because of the flexibility in

scheduling, you must have a strong desire to learn and acquire knowledge and skills via online courses. Making a commitment to learn in this manner is a very personal decision and requires a strong desire to perform in order to achieve academic success.

RESPECTING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Netiquette consists of the rules and guidelines for acceptable behavior in electronic communication. Remember, while working in an online course you are in an academic setting and should conduct yourself accordingly.

All students are expected to follow netiquette guidelines as outlined below:

- You are not text messaging friends. This means text message acronyms (such as LOL, IMHO, BCNU, etc.) are not acceptable. Express yourself with proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- Out of respect for your fellow course mates' and instructor's time, keep your communications as clear, straightforward, and concise as possible.
- Use appropriate mixed case text; avoid using all lowercase or all uppercase text (SHOUTING).
- You are your words. Your communication in an online course represents you. Always review and edit your communication before submitting.
- Give respect to your classmates. Be courteous, respectful of others' opinions, sensitive to diversity, and polite.
- Respect other people's privacy. Do not share other individual's personal information (i.e., e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc.) without permission.
- It's okay to disagree with someone's opinion or constructively criticize an idea. It is never okay to personally attack another student. Debate the idea; do not attack the person.
- Free speech is not an absolute right in an online course.
- Obey copyright laws and cite others' work appropriately.

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

- Students are expected to keep up with the class, to read the required readings, to watch the required recordings, and to submit assignments and activities by Saturday at 5:00pm EST of the week the topic is covered.
- Students should log on to D2L at least every other day to check for announcements, tests, and the final exam.
- Students are expected to independently complete all activities, assignments, tests, and the final exam.
- Students are expected to read the required readings each week before reviewing the lectures and are encouraged to read the supplemental readings and to complete the assignments.
- To receive maximum points for questions, students need to follow the instructions carefully, follow word limits as instructed, and use Spell Check. There will be deductions if these guidelines are not followed.

PART 6: GRADES AND GRADING POLICIES

GRADED COURSE ACTIVITIES

The following formula will be used to calculate your final grade:

Weight	Description
10%	Quizzes (Earned by timely good faith completion of ungraded quizzes and assignments.)
15%	Discussion Posts (Earned by timely good faith completion of ungraded discussion posts.)
30%	Graded Written Assignments
45%	Final Exam
100%	Total Possible

GRADING SCALE

Your grade will conform to your law school's grading policy.

GRADING POLICIES

Students are expected to submit ungraded and graded assignments on time. Tardy submission of ungraded assignments will result in a loss of participation points. Graded assignments will be penalized 10% if they are submitted between 1 and 12 hours late. Assignments submitted more than 12 hours late will be penalized 30%. Deductions may also occur when directions are not followed.

PART 7: OTHER COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

This course is delivered asynchronously to accommodate students' other life obligations. Students must access each lecture for an appropriate amount of time, participate substantively in the discussion boards, and submit all assignments.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Contact your school about requests for special accommodations and ask that the appropriate official at your school send granted accommodations to support@lawstudentonline.com.

PART 8: COURSE TOPICS

The following is a list of topics which will be covered in the course. Please refer to the course schedule for details on topics, assignments, and due dates. Any change related to the course schedule will be communicated to the students through an announcement to all students or by modifying the course syllabus and notifying students of the modified syllabus.

Module	Topic
1	Introduction
2	Lex Fori
3	Traditional Test (Rest 1)
4	Internet Analysis
5	Center of Gravity
6	Better Law
7	Rest 2
8	COL Clauses
9	Rest 3
10	Depecage
11	Procedure (Lex Fori)
12	Renvoi
13	Domicile
14	Constitutional Limits
15	Extraterritoriality
16	The Erie Doctrine
17	Personal Jurisdiction
18	Venue
19	Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments
20	Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign-Country Judgments

PART 9: COURSE SCHEDULE

Any change related to the course schedule will be communicated to the students through an announcement and by modifying this document.

Each module and the related discussion board will open at 12:00 am ET on the Saturday before the week in which the module is covered.

Assignments and Discussions

- **Assignments:** All assignments and quizzes are due by 11:59 pm ET on Sunday of the assigned week.
- **Discussions:** Original discussion posts are due by 11:59 pm ET on Thursday of the assigned week. All discussion replies are due by 11:59 pm on Sunday of the assigned week.

Week	Module	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 1/10-1/18	Module 01: Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Spotting a Conflicts Issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial posts due 1/15 ○ Replies due 1/18
	Module 02: Lex Fori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Lex Fori as a Methodology • T02: Influence (and Intersection) of Lex Fori on (with) all COL Methodologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 2a due 1/18 • Quiz 2b due 1/18
Week 2 1/17-1/25	Module 03: Traditional Test (Rest 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Jurisdiction-selecting facts (as a methodological model) • T02: Torts: POI • T03: POK • T04: Property: POP • T05: Marriage (+) others: x • T06: Escape Devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3 due 1/25
Week 3 1/24-2/1	Module 04: Interest Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Interest Analysis as a Methodology • T02: Governmental Interest Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 4a due 2/1 • Discussion 4a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial post due 1/29 ○ Replies due 2/1 • Discussion 4b: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial post due 1/29 ○ Replies due 2/1
	Module 05: Center of Gravity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: COG as a Methodological Option • T02: COG in Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M05 Worksheet due 2/1
	Module 06: Better Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Better Law as a Methodology • T02: Better Law in Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M06 Exercise due 2/8 • Discussions 6a & 6b: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial post due 2/4 ○ Replies due 2/8

Week 5 2/7-2/15	Module 07: Rest 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Rest 2d as a Methodology • T02: Localizing Statutes • T03: Rest 2d in Practice 	• Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial post due 2/12 ○ Replies due 2/15 • M07 Exercise due 2/15 • M07 Assignment due 2/15 • Quiz 7a due 2/15 • Quiz 7b due 2/15
Week 6 2/14-2/22	Module 08: COL Clauses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Enforceability of COL Clauses • T02: Scope of COL Clause 	• Chapter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 8a due 2/22 • M08 Worksheet due 2/22 • M08 Written Assignment due 2/22 • Quiz 8b due 2/22
Week 7 2/21-3/1	Module 09: Rest 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Rest 3d 	• No reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M09 Exercise due 3/1 • Discussion 9: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial post due 2/26 ○ Replies due 3/1
	Module 10: Depecage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Depecage 	• Chapter 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M10 Worksheet due 3/1 • Discussion 10: No replies to classmates required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replies due 3/1
Week 8 2/28-3/8	Module 11: Procedure (Lex Fori)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Substance-Procedure Dichotomy • T02: Borrowing Statutes 	• Chapter 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M11 Worksheet due 3/8 • M11 Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial post due 3/5 ○ Replies due 3/8 • M11 Quiz due 3/8
	Module 12: Renvoi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Renvoi 	• Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 12 due 3/8
Week 9 3/7-3/15	Module 13: Domicile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Domicile 	• Chapter 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M13 Written Assignment due 3/15
	Module 14: Constitutional Limits on COL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T01: Due Process Clause • T01: Full Faith and Credit Clause 	• Chapter 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M14 Written Assignment due 3/15
Spring Break 3/14-3/22	Spring Break – No Assignments Due			

Week 10 3/21-3/29	Module 15: Extraterritoriality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● T01: Conflicts Between US Federal and a Foreign-Country's Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 19(A) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M15 Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial post due 3/26 ○ Replies due 3/29 ● Quiz 15 due 3/29
	Module 16: The <i>Erie</i> Doctrine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● T01: Guided <i>Erie</i> ● T02: Unguided <i>Erie</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 19(C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M16 Worksheet Exercise due 3/29
Week 11 3/28-4/5	Module 17: Personal Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● T01: General Jurisdiction ● T02: Specific Jurisdiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M17 Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initial post due 4/2 ○ Replies due 4/5 ● M17 Worksheet due 4/5
	Module 18: Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● T01: Venue ● T02: Transfers ● T03: Forum Non Conveniens ● T04: Forum Selection Clauses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz 18a due 4/5 ● Quiz 18b due 4/5
Week 12 4/4-4/12	Module 19: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● T01: Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M19 Quiz due 4/12
Week 13 4/11-4/19	Module 20: Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign-Country Judgments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● T01: Recognition & Enforcement: Mandatory Exceptions ● T02: Recognition & Enforcement: Discretionary Exceptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Written Assignment due 4/19
FINAL EXAM	See final exam module of your course for details			