FINC 4347/6347 – ESTATE PLANNING

Course Description/Overview

Various aspects of estate and gift tax planning—including the nature, valuation, transfer, administration, and taxation of property are discussed. Particular emphasis is given to a basic understanding of the unified estate and gift tax system. This course covers gratuitous transfers of property outright or with trusts, wills, and powers of appointment. It also covers federal estate and gift taxation, the marital deduction, and various estate planning devices used in the estate planning process. In addition, the client interview, fact-finding, ethical standards, and the development of appropriate personal estate plans are discussed.

Prerequisite Knowledge

None

Course Technology

Internet access necessary. Course materials may be found on the University’s Blackboard system at http://blackboard.angelo.edu.

Class Meeting Times and Location

We will meet for Exams only per the attached schedule. Meetings will occur in RAS 103.

Technical Support

The Technology Service Center (TSC) may be contacted by calling (325) 942-2911 or 1-866-942-2911 or by email at helpdesk@angelo.edu

Faculty/Instructor Information

Whitney Leifeste

Senior Instructor of Business Law
Office: RAS 254
Phone: 325-486-6489
E-Mail: whitney.leifeste@angelo.edu

About the Instructor:

Doctorate of Jurisprudence
Masters in Communication
Licensed Attorney

University of Texas – Austin
Angelo State University
State of Texas

Office Hours:

By appointment only.
Course Textbook and Required Readings

Publisher: Money Education
Title: Estate Planning
Edition: 11th
Author: Michael A. Dalton & Thomas P. Langdon

Other readings are assigned in a timely manner as needed and are provided to you as PDF, MS Word format, or a link to an online resource will be provided.

Grading Policies

This course employs the following to measure student learning.
  o 40% = Homework, Quizzes, and Assignments
  o 10% = Exam #1
  o 10% = Exam #2
  o 10% = Exam #3
  o 10% = Exam #4
  o 10% = Exam #5
  o 10% = Exam #6

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:
  A = 90 – 100 %
  B = 80 – 89 %
  C = 70 – 79 %
  D = 60 – 69 %
  F = 59 % and below.

Response Time
Exams will normally be returned within seven days. Response to emails will normally be within 24 hours Monday through Friday.

Missed/Late Work
There are no makeups!!! You are responsible for all deadlines. It is your responsibility to understand what is expected of you each week. The structure of the course is simple to follow. Please refer to the Course Outline for details about assignments and deadlines.

Final Exam
The sixth exam will be given during your designated Final Exam time. This exam is not comprehensive and has the same weight as the other exams.
Course Policies

Academic Honesty and Integrity
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

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It is the professor’s intention to be as fair and impartial as is humanly possible. Therefore, all students will be asked to adhere to the same set of guidelines and rules UNLESS there are disabilities or documented extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the professor and the Student Life Office. Please make sure you inform the professor as soon as any situation arises. Do NOT wait until the problem is compounded by poor class performance, poor attendance, etc.

Academic integrity is expected. This includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized sharing of work, or unauthorized possession of course materials. The professor assumes that all students can be trusted. Please do no violate this trust. Violation of academic integrity will result in a failing grade for the course.

Courtesy and Respect
Courtesy and Respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other's opinions and respect their point of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, life style, race (ethnicity), religion, etc., violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

Accommodations for Disability
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:
Student absence for religious holidays
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day), a student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Course Drop
To view information about how to drop this course or to calculate important dates relevant to dropping this course, you can visit http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrars_office/course_drop_provisions.php.

Incomplete as a Course grade
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures), the grade I is given when the student is unable to complete the course because of illness or personal misfortune. An I that is not removed before the end of the next long semester automatically becomes an F. A graduate student will be allowed one year to remove a grade of I before it automatically becomes an F. To graduate from ASU, a student must complete all I’s.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at: http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance.

College of Business Code of Ethics
Students, faculty, administrators and professional staff of the College of Business should always:
•  Be forthright and truthful in dealings with all stakeholders
•  Take responsibility for one's actions and decisions
•  Serve as an example of ethical decision-making and behavior to others
•  Admit errors when they occur, without trying to conceal them
•  Respect the basic dignity of others by treating them as one would wish to be treated
# Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Topic/Chapter/Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Tasks -- Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **#1 8/27-9/2** | Chapter 1: Introduction to Estate Planning | · Obtain Textbook  
· Read Ch1  
**Due: 9/9/18, 11:59PM** |
| **#2 9/3-9/9** | Chapter 2: Basic Estate Planning Documents | · Read Ch2  
· Homework Problems 2  
**Due: 9/9/18, 11:59PM** |
| **9/10/18 Monday 1:30PM-2:45PM** | EXAM #1 in RAS 103, Covering Chapters 1 & 2 | |
| **#3 9/10-9/16** | Chapter 3: Types of Property Interests | · Read Ch3  
· Homework Problems 3  
**Due: 9/16/18, 11:59PM** |
| **#4 9/17-9/23** | Chapter 4: The Probate Process | · Read Ch4  
· Homework Problems 4  
**Due: 9/23/18, 11:59PM** |
| **9/24/18 Monday 1:30PM-2:45PM** | EXAM #2 in RAS 103, Covering Chapters 3 & 4 | |
| **#5 9/24-9/30** | Chapter 5: Gift Tax | · Read Ch5  
· Homework Problems 5  
**Due: 9/30/18, 11:59PM** |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/1-10/7</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Estate Tax</td>
<td>- Read Ch6</td>
<td>10/07/18, 11:59PM</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/8-10/14</td>
<td>Prepare for and take Exam #3</td>
<td>- Homework Problems 6</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/10/18</td>
<td>EXAM #3 in RAS 103, Covering</td>
<td>- Read Ch7</td>
<td>10/21/18, 11:59PM</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/15-10/21</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Transfers During Life and at Death</td>
<td>- Homework Problems 7</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10/22-10/28</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Trusts</td>
<td>- Read Ch8</td>
<td>10/28/18, 11:59PM</td>
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<td>10/29-11/4</td>
<td>Prepare for and take Exam #4</td>
<td>- Homework Problems 8</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>10/31/18</td>
<td>EXAM #4 in RAS 103, Covering</td>
<td>- Read Ch9</td>
<td>11/11/18, 11:59PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/5-11/11</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Charitable Giving</td>
<td>- Homework Problems 9</td>
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| #12 | 11/12-11/18   | Chapter 10: The Unlimited Marital Deduction  
  · Read Ch10  
  · Homework Problems 10  
  **Due: 11/25/18, 11:59PM** |
| #13 | 11/19-11/25   | Prepare for and take Exam #5 this week.  
  · STUDY! |
|     | 11/21/18      | **EXAM #5 in RAS 103, Covering Chapters 9 & 10**                                    |
| #14 | 11/26-12/2    | Chapter 11: Life Insurance in Estate Planning  
  · Read Ch11  
  · Homework Problems 11  
  **Due: 12/02/18, 11:59PM** |
| #15 | 12/3-12/9     | Chapter 12: Special Elections and Post Mortem Planning  
  · Read Ch12  
  · Homework Problems 12  
  **Due: 12/09/18, 11:59PM** |
|     | 12/10/18      | **FINAL EXAM WEEK**  
  EXAM #6 in RAS 103, Covering Chapters 11 & 12 |

**This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor.**