Family law pertains to the formation and dissolution of domestic relations, including the law of marriage, annulment, separation and dissolution, maintenance, and custody and support of children. This course will study the differences between community and separate property, the classification of property, and the impact of such classification. The role of the paralegal in family law practice and the importance of mediation of domestic issues will also be discussed.

INSTRUCTOR: Sam Germana

OBJECTIVE: The course begins with an overview of divorce law and reviews important aspects to consider in property division, alimony, custody and support in a divorce. The course also describes post-divorce collection actions and necessary court actions after a divorce. Other aspects of family law are studied also, including common law marriage, prenuptial agreements, annulments, civil unions, adoptions, paternity and neglect actions. Students will learn common terminology in family law and some of the procedural concerns to consider in these areas of law.

EXPECTATIONS: You will be expected to spend an average of 8 hours per week reading and completing writing assignments. Please note that, barring extenuating circumstances, extensions will not be granted for this online course. 70% is the minimum passing score on all tests and assignments for this course. Students may consider working ahead in the curriculum if they have the time. Coursework in Family Law is equivalent to 45 clock hours of study.

PREREQUISITES: Successful completion of Paralegal I and II, or equivalent experience.

REQUIRED TEXT:

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED LEGAL RESOURCES:
To order, call The Center for Legal Studies 1-800-522-7737 or Order Online Now.

Reading Assignments for Lesson Topics:

**Lesson One:** How to Begin a Divorce & Service of Process Considerations
Read the Preface and Chapters 1, 2, & 3 in *Family Law in a Nutshell* (Nutshell)

**Lesson Two:** Agreements and Contested Hearings in a Divorce- Support & Property
Read Chapters 8, 14, 21, 22, & 23 in Nutshell

**Lesson Three:** Collecting Support and Contempt Actions & Transfer of Property
Advanced Paralegal Certificate Course: Family Law Continued
Syllabus

Register Now
Phone: +1-706-542-3537 or
Fax: +1-706-583-0180
Email: questions@georgiacenter.uga.edu

Read Chapters 15 & 16 in Nutshell

**Lesson Four:** Common Law Marriage/ Prenuptial Agreements/ Annulments
Read Chapters 4, 7 & 18 in Nutshell

**Lesson Five:** Civil Union Statutes/ Adoptions/ Torts in Marriage & Heart Balm
Read Chapters 6, 9 & 11 in Nutshell

**Lesson Six:** Paternity Actions/ Custody & Visitation/ Neglect Actions
Read Chapters 10, 12, & 17 and review Chapters 14, 15, & 16 in Nutshell

**TESTS:** For each lesson you will submit a 50-point test covering the topics in that lesson’s reading consisting of a variety of short answer questions and possibly some true/false or multiple choice questions. These assignments are due by 9:00 a.m. each Friday.

**BULLETIN BOARD ASSIGNMENTS:** You will also post your responses to six class participation assignments. These assignments are referred to as Bulletin Board Submissions and will be submitted by either selecting Bulletin Board Submission from within the lesson material, or by selecting ‘Forums’ under Activities on the Left Hand Block.

All lesson objectives, assignments, and tests can be found in the Lesson Materials.

**GRADING:** Your grade will be based on your completion of six writing assignment assignments, two exams, and class participation/Bulletin Board Submissions. The exams and writing assignments can be accessed from within the lesson material, or by selecting ‘Assignments’ under Activities on the Left Hand Block. You will have the opportunity to engage in “class participation” by using the Bulletin Board tool to respond to the bulletin board assignments throughout the course. Also, participating in the bulletin board assignments will enhance your understanding of the reading material.

Your final grade will be figured as follows:

- The six tests are worth 50 points each and comprise 70% of your grade.
- Your participation in class participation assignments comprises 30% of your grade.