

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

### **General Syllabus**

#### **LEGL 2622 Oil and Gas Law**

Credit Hours: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Presents the fundamental principles of oil, gas and mineral law to prepare the student to work as a legal assistant in the oil and gas area and to provide training for those employed in the oil and gas industry. Offered on demand.

##### **B. Additional Information**

This course is a survey of the substantive law of oil and gas with particular emphasis on the laws of Arkansas and Oklahoma since it is anticipated that most course related employment opportunities would be within the Arkoma gas basin of Arkansas and Oklahoma which is centered in Fort Smith. Students will also become more familiar with the various contracts and other documents which are employed in the oil and gas industry and will become familiar with the administrative process before the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain and discuss principles of oil, gas and mineral law.
2. Prepare documents such as oil and gas leases, assignments, mineral deeds, royalty deeds, farm out agreements, joint operating agreements, surface damage agreements and pipe line rights of way.
3. Assist in gathering the information and preparing documents and exhibits necessary for proceedings before the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission.

##### **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will prepare contracts and legal documents routinely used in the area of oil, gas and mineral law. Students will use legal terminology associated with oil, gas and mineral law.

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills-** Students will identify the legal issues raised in a case or fact pattern as well as identify the rules that are relied upon to resolve the issues. Students will apply those rules to the issue or fact pattern and reach a logical resolution premised on and grounded in those rules.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in the oil, gas and mineral law.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. The nature of the mineral interest
- B. The definition of "mineral"
- C. Instruments creating mineral interests
- D. The mineral owner's rights of ingress and egress to the surface
- E. The oil and gas lease
- F. The "license" theory vs. sale of minerals in place
- G. Express provisions of the lease
- H. Implied covenants in oil and gas leases
- I. Special leasing situations
- J. Assignments of oil and gas leases
- K. Statutory and administrative regulation of exploration and production
- L. Constitutional and statutory authority for regulation of exploration and production
- M. The drilling unit
- N. Statutory and regulatory control of royalty payments