Family Law Syllabus
Spring 2015

Professor Barbara Stark, Room 107 (Library) 516-463-5994
e-mail: barbara.j.stark@hofstra.edu


I am generally available to meet after class. (I am not available during the hour before class.) In addition, if you email me I’ll be happy to schedule a mutually convenient time to meet with you.

No Laptops During Class

This course does not lend itself to laptop note-taking. Surveys at other schools (and previous students who have taken this course at Hofstra) indicate that students are more satisfied with the learning environment in no-laptop courses. Although some students prefer to use laptops, a larger number of students in the surveys say that classrooms are quieter, they can hear the teacher and other students better, and they feel more engaged in the classroom experience with fewer distractions. Accordingly, in Family Law you may not use a laptop, or any other electronic device, during class.

The first assignment is set out below. Please read the assignment and be prepared to answer the questions.

Class #1 Chapter 1. Introduction
pp. 3-20 A. The Themes of Family and Family Law

1. What is the “revolution in families” and how does it affect the direction of family law?
2. Does the State have a legitimate interest in privileging certain kinds of families?
3. Should ‘marriage’ be at the center of family law?
4. What is the purpose of family law? What are its limits?