CIVIL PROCEDURE
Professor Adam Steinman
Fall 2015

Class Time: Tue/Thu/Fri, 10:45–11:55
Office Hours: Tue/Thu, 1:00–1:50pm; or by appointment.
Contact Info: Room 319 / 205-348-9715 / asteinman@law.ua.edu
Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this class.

Course Description:

As the name suggests, this course is about the procedure that governs civil litigation. But you might also think of it as a course about courts. How do people, companies, or other entities use courts to obtain justice? How do people, companies, or other entities defend themselves when judicial remedies are sought from them? Once a case is initiated in court, how does it proceed to an ultimate decision or resolution? Which courts can hear and decide a particular case, and how might a case move from one court to another?

In tackling these issues, we will focus on civil cases rather than criminal cases. (Think Erin Brockovich, not Law & Order.) Civil cases are often about money: one side is seeking monetary relief from another. But civil cases can also seek injunctive relief (an order from the court requiring one side to take some legally-required action) or declaratory relief (an order declaring what the parties’ legal rights are). The substantive basis for a civil claim can be just about anything: contract, tort, property, civil rights, constitutional rights, laws governing consumer protection, the environment, finance, health and safety, product liability—to name a few. This class will cover the procedural framework that generally applies regardless of the particular substantive claims a given case might involve.

There is no single “law of civil procedure” that governs all courts throughout the United States. Although there is a great deal of overlap and similarity, each state’s judicial system has its own rules of civil procedure, and the federal judiciary has its own rules of civil procedure. Our focus—as with nearly all law schools during the 1L year—will be on civil procedure in federal courts. Federal courts exist in all states, and federal courts throughout the country follow the rules we’ll be covering. It is also worth noting that federal civil procedure is now a subject on the Multistate Bar Examination, which is part of nearly every state’s bar exam.
Required Materials:

*Casebook: FRIEDENTHAL, MILLER, Sexton & HERSHKOFF, CIVIL PROCEDURE, CASES AND MATERIALS, Compact 11th Edition for Shorter Courses (West 2013)*

*Supplement: FRIEDENTHAL, MILLER, Sexton & HERSHKOFF’S CIVIL PROCEDURE 2015–2016 SUPPLEMENT FOR USE WITH ALL PLEADING AND PROCEDURE CASEBOOKS (West 2015)*

*TWEN: Additional materials will be posted on this course’s webpage on The West Education Network (TWEN). I will also use TWEN to post announcements and to contact the class via email. You will be given information about how to access TWEN during the orientation week.*

Attendance & Participation:

You are required to attend class, to prepare for class by reading and thinking about the assigned material, and to participate in class discussions. If you are unable to attend or participate in class on a particular day, please let me know in advance. My telephone, email, and office information are listed above.

This course is subject to the Law School’s attendance policy, which is available in the Student Handbook (http://www.law.ua.edu/students/handbook.pdf). In accordance with that policy, I will keep a class attendance sheet. A student may miss class only for good cause, such as (1) sickness which disables the student from attending class or poses a significant threat to the health of others; (2) sickness of, or accident involving, a spouse or dependent, which requires the student to be with the spouse or dependent; (3) an accident which necessarily prevents the student’s attendance in class; (4) the death of a family member or friend; (5) an interview for a summer clerkship or for a permanent position after graduation, if the interview cannot reasonably be scheduled to avoid conflict; (6) a meeting or event at which the student must appear as a representative of the law school; or (7) other good cause as is warranted under the circumstances. Deadlines for activities or other course assignments do not constitute good cause for missing class. A student who is absent for any reason from more than three class hours per semester credit hour in a course may be dropped from the roll or not allowed to sit for the exam and receive an “F” for the course. This is the equivalent of about three weeks of classes.

Grading & Final Examination:

Your grade in this course will be based on an in-class final examination. The exam is closed book, but it will include a handout containing the relevant rules, statutes, and constitutional provisions. That handout will be the only source you may consult during the exam. We will discuss the exam in greater detail as the semester proceeds.

* Be sure you have the Compact 11th edition (the last numbered page is p.777). If your book has over 1300 pages, you have the wrong one.
Additional Information & Policies:

**ADA Accommodations:** The Law School is committed to meeting the needs of students with physical, learning, and other disabilities, and provides appropriate accommodations and services tailored to each person’s specific requirements. The Law School’s administration and the University’s Office of Disability Services work together to help individuals with disabilities achieve and maintain individual autonomy. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disabilities Services so that the individual’s needs for support services can be evaluated and accommodated in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please contact Associate Dean Claude Arrington at carrington@law.ua.edu.

**Conduct:** All students are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. University policies, the Law School Honor Code, and other appropriate policies, will be followed in the event of misconduct.

**Diversity:** The University is committed to providing an atmosphere of learning that is representative of a variety of perspectives. In this class, you will have the opportunity to express and experience cultural diversity. Individuality and creative expression are welcome. Take advantage of these opportunities in your own work, but also learn from the information and ideas shared by others.

**Electronic devices:** Cellphones, smartphones, and similar devices must be off during class. You may not send or receive calls, text messages, instant messages, or the like during class unless some special circumstances (an imminent birth, for example) justify leaving your phone on—in which case you should notify me in advance. Someone whose use of such an electronic device interferes with the classroom learning experience may be asked to leave class and will be considered absent for that day.

**Laptops & Internet:** Laptops are permitted in class only for taking notes and for viewing websites or other documents that I have asked you to access as part of our class discussion. You may not use your laptop for any other purpose during class. Someone whose laptop use interferes with the classroom learning experience may be asked to leave class and will be considered absent for that day. Laptops must be set up before class starts.

**Recording devices:** The use of recording devices in class is prohibited without my prior written permission. I give permission only for disability-related purposes or for unavoidable absences. You may not record class simply because you believe it will aid your studying.
A Brief Word About Study Guides and Hornbooks:

Students sometimes ask me about study guides or hornbooks for civil procedure. Such outside materials are not necessary for this class. All of the content you are responsible for is in the assigned material or will be covered during our class discussions. While I know that some of the assigned material may be difficult to grasp on first read, my personal opinion is that it is more valuable to spend time carefully re-reading the assigned material than seeking out study guides or hornbooks. But I also understand that different students learn differently. For students who find such outside sources helpful, I have listed Glannon’s *Civil Procedure Examples & Explanations* (7th ed. 2013) as an optional resource for this class. However, I do not intend to discuss it in class. Again, reading the material and paying attention to our class discussions will give you everything you need to succeed in this course.

If you do decide to use *Examples & Explanations* or any other outside source, please keep the following in mind: First, study guides and hornbooks can often over-simplify things—suggesting clear answers when, in fact, the law is more complex and open-ended. Understanding any area of the law (and doing well in this class) requires understanding where there are gray areas. Second, a major skill one should develop during law school is how to learn the law from the legal sources themselves: judicial decisions, rules, statutes, etc. Lawyers need to be able to use and understand these primary sources in order to research, advise, and advocate. Closely reading the decisions, rules, and statutes that are assigned for this class—and using them, rather than outside guides, to learn civil procedure—is an important way to develop and enhance those skills.
Reading:

- The page numbers listed below are for the Casebook. Unless otherwise indicated, read all of the assigned pages, which will usually include not only the designated case, but also Notes & Questions after the case, shorter summaries or excerpts from other cases, and additional material.

- “Supp.” refers to rules, statutes, constitutional provisions, and other materials contained in the Supplement.

- “TWEN” refers to material posted in the Additional Course Materials section of the TWEN website.

I. Introduction

1-9: Various Introductory Materials
26-27: The Judgment and its Enforcement

II. Personal Jurisdiction

A. Early Development of Personal Jurisdiction

35-46: Pennoyer v. Neff
Supp.: U.S. Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, 1st sentence; U.S. Constitution, Amendment XIV, Section 1, 2nd sentence*
46-49: Expanding the Bases of Personal Jurisdiction; Hess v. Pawloski
Supp.: New York Civil Practice Law & Rules 302(a) (page 218); Rhode Island General Laws Annotated § 9-5-33(a) (page 221)

B. Refining the Minimum Contacts Analysis

TWEN: Map (the Structure of the Federal Judiciary)
66-77: World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson
Supp.: Walden v. Fiore (pages 378-381)
77-81: Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz
81-89: Asahi Metal Industry Co., Ltd. v. Superior Court
89-104: J. McIntyre Machinery, Ltd. v. Nicastro
Supp.: Ainsworth v. Moffett Engineering, Ltd. (pages 381-384)
105-112: Goodyear Dunlop Tires Operations, S.A. v. Brown

112-118:  

*Community Trust Bancorp, Inc. v. Community Trust Financial Corp.*

C.  

*Pennoyer Revisited: Power, Presence & Consent*

118-119:  

*Pennington v. Fourth National Bank*

121-130:  

*Shaffer v. Heitner*

130-137:  

*Burnham v. Superior Court*

138-139:  

Consent by Registration; Consent by Contract

Stay tuned for Syllabus Part 2. Lots more still to come, including:

- Notice & Service
- Subject Matter Jurisdiction
- Venue & Forum Non Conveniens
- Pleading
- Discovery
- Trial & Adjudication Without Trial
- Post-Trial Motions & Proceedings
- Multiple Claims & Parties
- Effects of Judgments
- *And more...*