Requirements:
Students are expected to attend class, keep up with the assigned readings (Weisberg & Appleton text and class handouts), and contribute to class discussion.

Grades will be based on the following:

FINIAL EXAM: this will be an in-class, closed-book exam (you may bring one 8.5x11 sheet of notes). Your grade will depend entirely on the exam unless you receive additional participation points.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: your grade may be improved by fairly consistent class participation. Informed, significant contributions to class discussion, even if sporadic, may also serve to improve your grade. Failure to participate and frequent absence will be noted and may result in a slight adjustment to your grade.

READINGS: please be prepared to discuss the materials assigned for each class. You should concentrate on case excerpts, articles excerpts and the problems (though not all of these will be referred to in class). You need not read the “Notes and Questions” sections that follow case excerpts.

Schedule of Classes: (readings are from the W&A text)

September 2:  
   Introduction  
   Constitutional Protection for the Family and Its Members  

September 4:  
   Getting Married  

September 9:  
   Getting Married  

September 11:  
   Getting Married  

September 16:  
   Getting Married  
   Readings: Substantive and Procedural Regulations, part 3 (p. 222 – 244).
September 18: Alternative Families
Readings: Cohabitation: Unmarried Couples (p. 417 – 445)

September 23: Divorce

September 25: Divorce
Readings: No-Fault Divorce (p. 564 – 568, 571 – 591).

September 30: Divorce
Readings: Access to Divorce, the Role of Counsel (p. 592 – 625).

October 2: Divorce
Readings: Divorce Jurisdiction (p. 632 – 652).

October 7: Financial Consequences of Dissolution

October 9: Financial Consequences of Dissolution
Readings: Spousal Support (p. 668 – 680)

October 14: Financial Consequences of Dissolution

October 16: Support Rights of Nonmarital Children

October 21: Financial Consequences of Dissolution

October 23: Financial Consequences of Dissolution

October 28: Financial Consequences of Dissolution

October 30: Case Study

November 4: No class

November 6: Financial Consequences of Dissolution
Readings: Child Support, part 4 (p. 769 – 786).
November 11: Child Custody

November 13: Child Custody

November 18: Child Custody
Readings: Parental Disputes, part 3 (p. 852 – 863).

November 20: Child custody

November 25: Child Custody

December 2: Child Custody
Readings: Parental Disputes, part 6 (p. 909 – 931)

December 4: Child Custody