

Lawyering Skills and Strategies

Fall 2017 ~ Professor Brem

15H-BLB ~ kbrem@central.uh.edu ~ (713) 743-5945
Office Hours: to be decided
Research Assistant: to be decided

Course Objectives. This fall you will develop essential lawyering skills: Identifying and analyzing legal issues; conducting legal research; and writing real world legal documents. In contrast to other 1L classes, in LSS you will not learn law in the abstract. Rather, you will learn how to use the substantive law you are learning in your other classes in practice. This results in several immediate benefits to you:

- you will learn skills that make you a better law student;
- you will prepare writing samples necessary for judicial internship and law firm summer clerkship applications; and
- you will learn and hone the research, writing, and oral communications skills employers demand.

Some writing and revising we will do in class. I will assign limited outside reading so that you can complete other writing and revising outside of class. I will be mindful of your time.

Grade Calculation. The ultimate purpose of this class is to teach you how to use the doctrinal law you are learning in a real-world setting. Aspirationally, your efforts in this class will enable you to become a better law student and prepare you for work outside the Law Center – either in a clinic setting, a judicial internship, or a clerkship. I will calculate your grade as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Final Writing Assignment	65%
Final Exam	25%

Class participation will be based on your timely and meaningful completion of various ungraded interim research and writing assignments, as well as completion of all citation, Core Grammar for Lawyers, and in-class writing assignments.

As to graded assignments, I will grade this course anonymously, and the Law Center mandates that the course be graded on a 2.8 to 3.2 curve. You must turn in all assignments on time. If you are ill or otherwise unable to turn in a graded assignment on time, please notify me via e-mail prior to the time the assignment is due to seek an accommodation. If your assignment is late, and you have not received a prior extension from me, I reserve the right to reduce your grade on the assignment for each hour the assignment is late. If the assignment is more than a day late, I reserve the right to issue a failing grade on the assignment.

Class Web Course. I will maintain a class website for this course. You will receive log-in credentials for the web course on the first class day.

When you log in to the course for the first time, **please register an email address that you check frequently. I will send all class related e-mails to whatever e-mail address you register with the class web course.**

Textbooks. The following textbooks and online service are mandatory for this course:

- Terrill Pollman et al., *Examples & Explanations: Legal Writing* (2d ed. 2014).
- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (20th ed. 2015)
- *The Greenbook: Texas Rules of Form* (13th ed. 2015).
- *Core Grammar for Lawyers*, available for purchase at coregrammarforlawyers.com.

The following textbook is strongly recommended for this course:

- Tracy L. McGaugh & Christine Hurt, *Interactive Citation Workbook for the Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (2016 ed.) (available July 26, 2016).

Renting the Pollman textbook is fine, but I would recommend purchasing *The Bluebook* and *The Greenbook*. You will continue to use these books throughout your law school career and into your practice. You will use the Pollman textbook in both the fall and spring semesters.

In addition to these books, please pick up a packet of Supplemental Readings, available in the LSS office suite on or after August 7, 2017. I will provide this packet to you free of charge.

Honor Code. The UHLC Honor Code applies to this class. It is set forth in its entirety in the Student Handbook. You are responsible for knowing the provisions of the UHLC Honor Code, and for full compliance with all of the UHLC Honor Code provisions. Failure to do so will result in referral to the UHLC Honor Court, and may result in you failing this class. If you have questions about whether a certain activity constitutes a breach of the UHLC Honor Code, please ask me.

Attendance Policy. Finally, UHLC attendance policy dictates that you may miss no more than five scheduled classes. The Law Center considers mandatory outside-of-class activities as scheduled classes. I reserve the right to count you as absent if you 1) are not in the classroom or other specified location at the time class is scheduled to begin, 2) are unprepared for class, or 3) fail to put forth a good faith effort on an in-class assignment.

Proposed Course Outline. On or before the first class day, I will provide a proposed course schedule. I may, of course, modify it as the semester progresses, to achieve course objectives. The Supplemental Reading Packet referenced in the proposed course schedule will be available in the LSS office suite, again on or before the first class day.