

**Advanced Legal Writing
Student Syllabus
Fall 2017
Thursday 5:30**

Jani Maselli

Lecture	Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Class 1 August 24	Introduction The Writing Process Assignment	Bring Laptop, Westlaw password, and Bluebook and Greenbook	
Class 2 August 31	The Art of Writing and Rewriting. Editing		Essay Due— Thoughts on Legal Writing
Class 3 September 7	Discussion of Assignment/ In class preparation and beginning research		
Class 4 September 14	In class editing/writing Statutory interpretation		
Class 5 September 24	Client interview and Client Letters	Continue Research	Memo Due
Class 6 September 28	In class writing/editing – bring copies of your letter New assignment handed out		Letter Due (not graded)
Class 7 October 5	Discussion of assignment; In class writing/editing	Research on issue	
Class 8 October 12	Research In class writing assignment		

Class 9 October 19	Brief requirements		Due Assignment
Class 10 October 26	Briefs/statement of facts In class writing		
Class 11 November 2	Issues – spotting, writing, and persuading		Due: Brief Issues
Class 12 November 9	Persuasive writing		Due: Detailed Outline of Brief
Class 13 November 16	Presentation of Briefs – Mock oral arguments		Due: Final brief

Advanced Legal Writing

Professor Jani Maselli
Thursday 5:30 to 7:30
Office Hours: By appointment
janijo@aol.com

Jani: 713.256.7726

Course Description: ALW is an upper level class intended to help students become more proficient, efficient, and effective at researching, analyzing legal issues, and composing and organizing written documents. It will build on concepts learned in both LARC I and LARC II and will help students to refine and further develop problem solving, factual investigation and drafting skills. Assignments will include (1) writing a brief involving a complex legal issue; (2) drafting an opinion letters, attorney-client agreements and other reflective documents, and court documents, such as pleadings and motions; (3) communicating orally in motion hearings and client meetings.

Book –

The Winning Brief by Bryan Garner

Assignments:

There will be three graded writing assignments throughout the semester. The final brief will account for 50% of your grade. The other writing assignments will each account for 25% of your final grade.

Absences

You have two absences without penalty. On your third absence, I will lower your final grade by one grade level and refer you to Student Services. Since this class requires we work together as a “firm,” your presence and participation is necessary not just for yourself, but for your colleagues and clients.

Assignments Due

On the date an assignment is due, it is timely if presented printed out, stapled, and to me by 6:00 p.m. of the due date. It is not timely if presented after 6:00 p.m. on the due date. It is not timely if emailed to me on the due date.

If the assignment is presented within 24 hours from its due date and time, a reduction of 20% of the points earned will be deducted. If the paper is presented within one week of the due date, there will be a 50% deduction in points. After one week, the paper will not be accepted and a grade of 0 for that assignment will be assigned.

Real and true emergencies will be taken into consideration.

Participation

This is not a class where you can sit back and take notes, although there will be times when that is required. This will be interactive with your colleagues. We will research together and write separately. We will present our findings to the class. We will edit our colleagues' papers.

Goal

As future attorneys, rarely will your client ever present himself with his issue squarely insular and written as "Question Presented." This class will challenge you with writing effectively for the client when the answer is not always easily discernible or available.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.

http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html