

PROFESSOR LAUREN SIMPSON
LAWYERING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES II
 SECTION E-2 • SPRING 2018 • 211 TU2 • THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. – 9:10 P.M.

REVISED SYLLABUS

Class and Date	Topic	Assignments Due, Class Preparation, and Other Notes
Class 1 Jan. 18 Thursday [Both sections meet together due to MLK Holiday]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Overview • Communicating with Opposing Party and Counsel (flipped lecture + in-class discussion and exercise) <i>Guest facilitator: Mr. Iain Simpson, Simpson P.C.</i> 	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> none</p> <p><u>Class Preparation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bridges & Schiess</i>: please read Chs. 2 and 8. • <i>From the TWEN Class 1 folder</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please listen to the “flipped” lecture on corresponding with the opposing side. ▪ Please review the in-class demand-letter exercise, but don’t work on it yet. ▪ Please <i>skim</i> the three sample demand letters (annotated). <p><u>Note:</u> The Graded Demand-Letter assignment (20% of grade) will be distributed after tonight’s class in hard copy and in the TWEN Class 1 folder. The optional <i>first draft</i> is due on <u>Monday, January 29</u>. The <i>final draft</i> is due <u>Thursday, Feb. 8</u> (specifics below and in the assignment instructions).</p>
Class 2 Jan. 25 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Art of Legal Persuasion: Advocating Effectively for Your Client 	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> Please take the “Avoiding Plagiarism in Law School” free, on-line mini-course: https://expand.iu.edu/browse/law/courses/plagiarism (from Indiana University’s Robert H. McKinney School of Law). The mini-course will take you about 30 minutes, and you will receive a certification afterwards. (You do not need to send me your certification.) You will need to create an IU guest user ID to enroll in this class. This mini-course may be used for your own educational purposes only.</p> <p><u>Class Preparation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Coughlin</i>: Please read pp. 305-07, 312-35 (Ch. 19, §§ I & III).
Jan. 29 Monday	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> The first draft of the Graded Demand Letter is due by <u>no later than today at noon</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please submit the first draft in MSWord or WP format. • Please submit the first draft in the TWEN Assignments drop box entitled “First draft: Graded Demand Letter,” <u>using your <i>spring exam number</i></u>. Please ensure that your name appears nowhere on the document. • <u>I will return my comments on or before Friday, February 2, by uploading them to the TWEN drop box under which you submitted your first draft.</u> • Submitting a first draft of this graded assignment is optional, but it is <i>strongly</i> recommended. <u>My review of the first draft is in lieu of formal, 30-minute conferences with me on this assignment</u> (although students may always ask me any questions they have). 	

Class 3 Feb. 1 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas: Citation and the Nuances of Higher-court Review 	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> None</p> <p><u>Class Preparation:</u> None</p> <p><u>Notes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please bring your <i>Bluebook</i> and <i>Greenbook</i> to class. • A “Texas citation” exercise appears on the TWEN “Citation” page. Please complete this exercise by <u>Monday, Feb 19.</u>
Class 4 Feb. 8 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion Practice I 	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> The Graded Demand Letter (20% of grade) is due at 6:00 p.m. today. Please submit it via TWEN (MSWord or WP format) in the TWEN Assignments drop box entitled “Final version: Graded Demand Letter.” If (and <i>only</i> if) you cannot submit the assignment by TWEN, then you may email it to Ms. Anjanette (“Anjie”) Curtis by 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Class Preparation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bridges & Schiess</i>: Please read Chs. 9 and 10. • <i>Coughlin</i>: Please read pp. 307-11, 335-50 (Ch. 19, § II & § IV through the chapter’s end). <p><u>Note:</u> The ungraded motion for summary judgment (open research) will be distributed today via TWEN’s applicable Assignments drop box. It is due <u>Monday, Feb. 26.</u> <i>Please research the issues in this assignment before Class 5 on Thursday, Feb. 15!</i></p>
Class 5 Feb. 15 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion Practice II • Citation: Signals and Parentheticals (flipped lecture) 	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> Please have the research for the ungraded motion for summary judgment complete by today, for use in class. (You will not submit your research to me.)</p> <p><u>Class Preparation:</u> Please review and come prepared to discuss the ungraded motion for summary judgment assignment in class today.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The flipped citation lecture is on the TWEN “Citation” page. You do <i>not</i> need to review it before Class 5, but you <i>do</i> need to review it before you begin working on the “Signals & Parentheticals” citation exercise, which is due <u>Monday, Feb. 26.</u> The “Signals & Parentheticals” citation exercise appears on the TWEN “Citation” page.</p>
Feb. 19 Monday	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> The “Texas citation” exercise is due today (any time). Please email your answers to me. Answers to the exercise will be posted on the TWEN “Citation” page this week.</p>	
Class 6 Feb. 22 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion Practice III: Mini-writing Workshop—Writing Persuasively in a Trial Motion 	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> None</p> <p><u>Class Preparation:</u> None</p>

<p>Class 7 Feb. 26 Monday</p> <p>[Both sections meet together to accommodate guest speakers]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion Practice IV: Special panel presentation—“Real-world Tips for Successful Motion Practice” <p><u>Special guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honorable Ravi K. Sandill, <i>Judge of the 127th Civil District Court, Harris County</i> • Ms. Maricarmen Garza, <i>Group Coordinator, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.</i> • Ms. Allison Standish Miller, <i>of Counsel, Beck Redden</i> • Mr. Brian Tagtmeier, <i>Attorney at Law, Mediator, Arbitrator</i> 	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> The “Signals & Parentheticals” citation exercise is due today (any time). Answers to the exercise will be posted on the TWEN “Citation” page this week.</p> <p><u>Class Preparation:</u> None</p>
<p>Mar. 3 Saturday</p>	<p><u>Special presentation:</u> “How to Do an Effective Appellate Oral Argument: Moot Court and Real Life” (Prof. S.; room 109 BLB; 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., including short break + Q&A time)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will conduct an <u>optional</u> presentation on effective oral advocacy at the appellate level. • The skills taught in this presentation will help equip students to participate in moot court and in real-life practice. And many of the skills discussed apply to arguments to any court, not just appellate courts. • Students attending this optional presentation will accrue an attendance credit that can be applied to cover one absence in my LSS class. • Fresh doughnuts will be served. 😊 	
<p>Mar. 5 Monday</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ungraded motion for summary judgment is due at 6:00 p.m. today. Please submit it via its TWEN Assignments drop box in MSWord or WP format. • The Graded Pre-Trial Motion (55% of grade) will be distributed after Section E-1’s class tonight via TWEN’s applicable Assignments drop box. It is due <u>Mon., April 9</u> (specifics below and in the assignment instructions). 	
<p>Class 8 Mar. 8 Thursday</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citation Diagnostic and Practice 	<p><u>Assignment Due:</u> None</p> <p><u>Class Preparation:</u> None</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Please bring your <i>Bluebook</i> and <i>Greenbook</i> to class. Please also have your answers to the “Texas citation” and “Signals & Parentheticals” citation exercises handy.</p>
<p>Week of March 12</p>	<p>Spring Break (no classes this week)</p>	

<p>Mar. 16 Friday</p>	<p><u>Optional</u>: You may email me, <i>in the form of short bullet points</i>, the key arguments, counter-arguments, and rebuttals that you are making in the Argument & Authorities section of your Graded Pre-Trial Motion (your “Outline”). If you wish, you may also include at the end of the Outline the key authority—including citation—that you plan to use (no citation = no review of authority). If you opt to send me your Outline, you must do so no later than today (any time of day). The point of your Outline is for me to see if you’re on the right substantive path with arguments, counter-arguments, and rebuttals. <i>I will not preview entire motions, and this is not intended to be a review of a first draft, as was done with the Graded Demand Letter.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Please submit your Outline by email, either as an attachment (MSWord or WP) or as email text. It should be no longer than a single page (and will likely be much shorter), with space between the bullet points, and using 12-point font. ◦ Please DO NOT put your spring exam number in anything that you send me. ◦ I reserve the right not to review any Outline turned in late without my prior permission. ◦ Submitting your Outline for feedback is optional, but it is <i>strongly</i> recommended. ◦ I will give my comments on your Outline during your conference with me during the week of March 19. 		
<p>March 19, 20, 21, 22</p>	<p>No class during the week of March 19 for either LSS section: student conferences for graded pre-trial motion + professor leaves for conference the night of Th., March. 22.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The combined sign-up sheet for both LSS sections is on a Google Drive document, the link for which appears in the footnote below.¹ • Please sign up for <i>only one</i> conference with me. (But you may of course contact me outside that conference time with any questions that you have.) • If your work schedule allows you to hold your conference before 5:00 p.m., please sign up for a pre-5:00 p.m. spot, so that those whose jobs don’t allow earlier conferences may have sufficient times from which to choose. • You may change your conference appointment if a conflict arises. If you do, please update the sign-up sheet immediately. • You may conduct your conference with me remotely. If you choose this option, please indicate it on the sign-in sheet and then, separately, email me your phone number. • Conferences are 30 minutes each. • Conferences are optional, but <i>strongly</i> recommended. 		
<p>Class 9 March 29 Thursday</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="267 1350 836 1682"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Memoranda and Professionalism in the Workplace </td><td data-bbox="836 1350 1565 1682"> <p><u>Assignment Due</u>: None</p> <p><u>Class Preparation</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coughlin: Please read Ch. 18. • Bridges & Schiess: Please read Ch. 5 (“Client Communications”). • Please review, but do not yet work on, the in-class exercise. </td></tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Memoranda and Professionalism in the Workplace 	<p><u>Assignment Due</u>: None</p> <p><u>Class Preparation</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coughlin: Please read Ch. 18. • Bridges & Schiess: Please read Ch. 5 (“Client Communications”). • Please review, but do not yet work on, the in-class exercise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Memoranda and Professionalism in the Workplace 	<p><u>Assignment Due</u>: None</p> <p><u>Class Preparation</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coughlin: Please read Ch. 18. • Bridges & Schiess: Please read Ch. 5 (“Client Communications”). • Please review, but do not yet work on, the in-class exercise. 		

¹ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vwnYNUs0mGyXw8AvdplW0t9ppsuvLPNdxywE1K7V_A/edit?usp=sharing. Please note that many of these spots are in the early afternoon because (i) the prior weekend falls during Spring Break and (ii) I fly to Denver for a conference late on Thursday, Mar. 22, through late Saturday. Accordingly, I needed to compress the schedule into 3.5 days. However, I’m allowing students to conference with me by phone (and will allow those conferencing remotely to email me anything that they wish for me to review for the conference). Please see the sign-in sheet for details.

Class 10 April 5 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citation Practice 	<u>Assignment Due:</u> None <u>Class Preparation:</u> None <u>Note:</u> Please bring your <i>Bluebook</i> , <i>Greenbook</i> , and answers to all citation exercises to class.
Apr. 9 Monday	The Graded Pre-Trial Motion (55% of grade) is due at 6:00 p.m. today. Please submit it via TWEN (MSWord or WP format) in the applicable Assignments drop box. If (and <i>only</i> if) you cannot submit the assignment by TWEN, then you may email it to Ms. Anjanette (“Anjie”) Curtis by 6:00 p.m. today.	
Class 11 Apr. 12 Thursday [Both sections meet together to accommodate guest presenters’ schedule]	Special presentation—Mediation Basics & Practice <u>Special guests:</u> Professor Bob Hughes and Professor Tracy Leissner, <i>Mediators, Hughes & Leissner PLLC</i>	<u>Assignment Due:</u> None <u>Class Preparation:</u> Your professor will advise which of our prior assignments will be the basis for the mediation practice (so that you have nothing new to prepare before class); you will bring that assignment’s materials with you to class.
Class 12 April 19 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students’ Choice Topic 	<u>Assignment Due:</u> None <u>Class Preparation:</u> None
April 23 Monday [Both sections together]	Final Citation Examination (20% of grade): <u>7:30-9:10 p.m.</u> ; multiple-choice format; 20 questions; open <i>Bluebook</i> and <i>Greenbook</i>	

1. The syllabus may be modified as needed to achieve course objectives.
2. If you haven’t already done so, please register for Section E-2’s spring 2018 LSS web course on TWEN immediately.
3. Please bring your laptop and have available your Westlaw, LexisNexis, and Bloomberg Law passwords for each class.
4. Beginning with **Class 3**, please bring your Bluebook and Greenbook to each class: as time allows, we may review citation matters even on days for which citation is not noted on the syllabus.

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.

Texas Lawyers’ Assistance Program: <https://www.tlaphelps.org/>