

## Lawyering Skills and Strategies Syllabus Spring 2018 ~ Professor Brem

This spring you will continue to develop the essential lawyering skills you learned last semester: Identifying and analyzing legal issues; conducting legal research; and writing real-world legal documents.

Specifically, this semester you will develop these skills through practical application, primarily in a litigation setting. You will draft a motion for summary judgment and accompanying responsive pleadings. In addition, you will discuss appellate practice and draft various transactional provisions. Some writing and revising you 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.

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.

Assessment. I will offer formative assessment throughout the semester through in-class research and writing assignments to provide feedback on your performance and competence in these skills. Moreover, I will provide summative assessment to evaluate your overall performance at the end of the semester through 1) a motion “package” that will include multiple drafts of a motion for summary judgment or responsive dispositive pleading, and 2) a final closed-book exam. I will calculate your grade as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Motion for Summary Judgment Package	60%
Final Exam	30%

Class participation will be based on your timely and meaningful completion of the Core Grammar for Lawyers program, all assigned ICW exercises as set forth in the Course Schedule, and any ungraded research and writing assignments.

Further, 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 by one grade level for the first hour (or part of an hour) the assignment is late. After the first hour, I will impose one additional grade reduction for each hour the assignment is late.

Course Website. I will continue to maintain our course website on The West Education Network (TWEN). **Please be sure you have provided an email address that you check frequently, because I will send all class related e-mails to the e-mail address you register with TWEN.**

Textbooks. I will not assign any additional textbooks for the class this spring.

Honor Code and Attendance. As before, both the UHLC Honor Code and attendance policies apply to this class. Please consult the UHLC Student Handbook, available at <http://law.uh.edu/jd/current/handbook.pdf>?, for details pertinent to each policy.

Course Schedule. On or before the first day of class I will publish a proposed course schedule. I may, of course, modify it as the semester progresses, to achieve course objectives.

Student Services. 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](http://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](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)