

WRC: Practice-based Legal Writing
Professor Lisa Tilton-McCarthy
University of Houston Law Center
15E BLB

Office Hours: (1) Tuesday: 4:00-5:45; (2) Thursday: 4:00-5:45 (3) or by appointment
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SPRING 2018
COURSE SYLLABUS

Date	Topic	Class Preparation/Assignment
Week 1 Classes 1, 2: January 16, 18	Overview of Course; Overview of MPT; in class MPT on January 18	ASSIGN: TAKE HOME MPT DUE JANUARY 23
Week 2 Classes 3, 4: January 23, 25	Review in class MPT and take home MPT; Persuasion	TAKE HOME MPT DUE! ASSIGN UN GRADED Memo PROJECT DUE Feb. 1
Week 3 Class 5: January 30 Class 6: February 1	Persuasion: Learning How to Persuade Persuasion Con't	 UNGRADED MEMO DUE; ASSIGN FIRST GRADED PROJECT DUE FEB. 8 (10%)
Week 4 Class 7: Feb. 6 Class 8: Feb. 8	Advanced Argument Techniques: Themes, point headings, dealing with opposing arguments Litigation Strategies: Drafting Effective Pre-trial documents/Drafting Documents from forms	Read Advanced Argument Techniques in the handout ASSIGN 2nd GRADED PROJECT, BRIEF DUE FEB. 20 (10%).
Week 5 Class 9: Feb. 13 Class 10: Feb 15	Advanced Argument Techniques: Drafting persuasive facts MPT--BRIEF	 .
Week 6 Class 11: Feb. 20 Class 12: Feb. 22	Mediation & Negotiations Mediation & Negotiations	 BRIEF DUE IN CLASS FEB. 20. ASSIGN MEDIATION STATEMENT DUE MARCH 6 (10%).
Week 7 Class 13: Feb. 27 Class 14: March 1	Mediation Exercise in class Drafting Contracts	 READ DRAFTING CONTRACTS IN HANDOUT

Week 8 Class 14: March 6	Drafting Contracts	MEDIATION STATEMENTS DUE IN CLASS; ASSIGN CONTRACT (15%) DUE MARCH 20.
Class 15: March 8	Drafting Contracts	
	SPRING BREAK	Be safe or have fun.
Week 10 Class 16: Mar. 20	Drafting Great Discovery	ASSIGN DISCOVERY (10%) DUE ON MARCH 29
Class 17: Mar. 22	Drafting Great Discovery	
Week 11 Class 18: March 27	Drafting Client Letters	
Class 19: March 29	Drafting Demand Letters	DISCOVERY DUE IN CLASS; ASSIGN CLIENT LETTER (10%) DUE ON APRIL 12
Week 12 Class 20: April 3	MPT-Client letter	
Class 21: April 5	Proof reading & editing	
Week 13 Class 22: April 10	Proof reading & editing	
Class 23: April 12	MPT – Demand Letter	CLIENT LETTER DUE IN CLASS; ASSIGN FINAL MEMO (25%) due on April 26
Week 14 Class 24: April 17	Judicial Opinions/Scholarly Writing	Read Handout, Scholarly Writing
Class 25: April 19	Drafting Legislation	
Week 15 Class 26: April 24	Conferences	
Class 27: April 26	MEMOS DUE IN CLASS	MEMOS DUE IN CLASS

*** The syllabus may be modified as needed to achieve the course objectives***

The final grade for this semester of Practice-based Legal Writing comprises the following:

1. Brief/Persuasive—Collaborative Project (15%) (Tow case)
2. Brief/Persuasive—Trial Brief (15%) (MSJ-Freeman)
3. Mediation Statement (15%) (Bar Fight)
4. Contract (15%) (Lease)
5. Discovery (10%) (Defamation case)
6. Client Letter (15 %) (Atherton Brief)
7. Final Memo (15%)

Course Objectives

This course is designed to prepare the student to effectively research complex legal questions and draft documents related to that research in a manner and form that would be appropriate in a law office. The student will build upon skills acquired in prior legal research and writing courses.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will effectively, read court opinions and brief cases; use law libraries, Westlaw and other online sources to research complex questions of law; draft a memorandum of law based upon the student's research; accomplish statutory analysis; and, draft an interoffice memorandum based upon that analysis. Students can also expect to learn how to (1) work cooperatively with others on joint assignments; (2) organize and maintain information given in class, from the client and obtained in research; (3) communicate thoughts, ideas, information, and messages effectively in writing; (4) listen and speaking effectively on legal matters and (5) recognize problems in hypothetical situations and identify possible solutions.

Text

There are no required text book. The goal is to actually write instead of reading about writing. If I want you to read something, I will give you a handout.

Counseling

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