

## Federal Pretrial Drafting Syllabus Spring 2018 ~ Professor Brem

In this class, you will improve your writing through practical application in a litigation setting. Specifically, we will take a lawsuit from the demand through mediation and settlement. This will include drafting a complaint, an answer, limited written discovery with accompanying responses/objections, a motion for summary judgment with accompanying opposition and reply, and a mediation statement. Some writing and revising will be done 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 improve your writing by preparing real-world legal documents. Aspirationally, when the course is complete, you will not only be a better writer, but you will have an improved understanding of what trial lawyers do in daily practice.

Assessment. Because this is a drafting skills class, I will offer formative assessment throughout the semester through in-class writing assignments to provide feedback on your performance and competence in these skills. There will be no summative assessment in the form of a final examination; however, the summary judgment package will offer summative assessment to evaluate your overall performance at the end of the semester as it requires that you incorporate each of the skills you learn in one final writing assignment.

Accordingly, I will calculate your grade as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Complaint and Answer	30%
Summary Judgment Package	60% (includes associated rewrites)

Class participation will be based on your timely and meaningful completion of all ungraded writing assignments. Further, I will grade the course anonymously, and the Law Center mandates that the course be graded on a 3.0 to 3.4 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. If your assignment is more than a day late, I reserve the right to issue a failing grade on the assignment.

Course Website. I will maintain a course website on The West Education Network (TWEN). **Please register for the course and provide 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 textbooks for this class. You may find it useful to have a copy of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure easily accessible during class and as you work on assignments for class.

Honor Code and Attendance. 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)