

LAWYERING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES I (SECTIONS B2 & C3)
SPRING 2018

Professor Alissa Rubin Gomez

E-mail: argomez3@central.uh.edu

Telephone: (713) 743-6782

Office: 15H Bates Law Building

Course Objectives

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.

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

Course Schedule

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 may send class related e-mails to the e-mail address you register with TWEN.

Graded Assignments

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.

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.

Mandatory Curve

This course is subject to a mandatory grading curve. The average grade in each section must be between 2.8 and 3.2.

Mandatory First Year Grade Distribution

In addition to the mandatory grading curve, this course is also subject to the mandatory First Year Grade Distribution:

A	0–10%
A-	5–15%
B+	15–25%
B	25–35%
B-	15–25%
C+	5–15%
C (or below)	0–10%

Formatting Requirements

All exercises and assignments you submit must conform to these specifications:

- Use Times New Roman, 12-point type, on white letter-size (8 ½" x 11") paper.
- Double space each assignment.
- Use one-inch margins on all sides.
- Place page numbers in the bottom center of each page, starting on the second page.
- Adhere to all other requirements stated in the instruction sheet.

Honor Code

The Honor Code applies to this class. Students are responsible for knowing its provisions and complying with them.

The UHLC Honor Code is found at <http://www.law.uh.edu/student/HONOR-CODE-AND-PROCEDURES.pdf>. Questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities may be directed to me.

If You Need Help

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