

**LAWYERING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES
SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION
SPRING 2018 ~ PROFESSOR WERNER**

Professor Werner's Contact Information

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Office Hours:	Mondays 1:00-2:30, Tuesdays 4:00-5:00, and by appointment

Class Home Page

You can access the Class Home Page at <http://lawschool.westlaw.com>.
Enter your Westlaw password and click on the TWEN link.

Please use your official University of Houston email when you register for TWEN. You are responsible for *regularly* checking the e-mail account you register with TWEN and the Class Home Page for postings and announcements.

Required Texts and Readings and Materials

The Greenbook, Texas Rules of Form (13th ed. 2015) (the "Greenbook").

Point Made. (2d. ed. 2014), written by Ross Guberman ("Point Made")

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et al. eds., 20th ed. 2015) (the "Bluebook").

A Lawyer Writes: A Practical Guide to Legal Analysis (2d ed. 2013), written by Christine Coughlin, Joan Malmud Rocklin, & Sandy Patrick ("Coughlin");

Handouts, web links, and other material posted on TWEN

Course Description

This spring you will continue to develop the legal research, writing and analysis skills you learned last semester. You will also continue to practice thinking on your feet in class discussions and formal and informal oral presentations.

Specifically, this semester you will develop these skills through practical application, primarily in a litigation setting. You will draft one or more motions and documents advocating for clients. In addition, you will practice representing clients in transactional settings.

Assessment – Graded Assignments

Graded assignments will include a summary judgment motion, an oral presentation relating to the motion for summary judgment, an oral presentation relating to transaction or litigation, and a choose your own adventure exercise. This semester, there will be two choose your own adventure exercises. You are required to submit one exercise, but you have the option to submit both exercises. If you submit both exercises, you will receive the higher grade of the two assignments.

I will calculate your grade as follows:

Professionalism and Exercise Completion	5%
Summary Judgment Motion	50%
Conference/presentation Based on the MSJ	10%
Choose Your Own Adventure Assignment	20%
Oral Presentation	15%

I expect you to demonstrate professionalism in this class. This means being on time and prepared, participating in class discussions, avoiding using Facebook, Twitter, and etc. in class when we are using laptops, making a good faith effort on ungraded assignments, and showing respect for me, your TAs, and other students during class and in any email or other communications. An important part of your professionalism grade will be timely completion of and *making a good faith effort on* any exercises I ask you to do. Unexcused failure in any regard will result in a loss of professionalism points.

The graded assignments are a required part of this course. If you fail to complete any one of the graded assignments you will receive an “F” in this course. If you receive an “F” in Lawyering Skills and Strategies I, you will be required to repeat the course.

The Law Center uses an anonymous-grading system to ensure fairness in grading. You will be assigned an exam number this semester to use instead of your name on the Closed Memorandum, Email, LRW Exam, Open-Library Office Memorandum and Choose Your Own Adventure Exercise. Your name should *not* appear anywhere in these assignments, and you should not share your exam number with me before the release of final grades.

You are expected to implement an appropriate data management plan to protect your files from loss, theft, or corruption. Many free services exist that will back up your files to remote servers and maintain prior versions of your files to prevent data loss. Examples include Dropbox (<http://www.dropbox.com>), GoogleDrive (<https://drive.google.com>), and SkyDrive (<https://skydrive.live.com>).

You are expected to turn your assignments in on time in this class, and you will be subject to a late penalty for not doing so. It is not a valid excuse for untimely submission of an assignment that your files were lost, stolen, or corrupted. Extensions must be requested in advance and will be granted for true emergencies only.

Assessment – Ungraded Assignments

Ungraded assignments will include exercises on various topics, and exercises relating to the Greenbook. Throughout the semester, you will receive several research and writing assignments that will not be formally graded. You must make a good faith effort on these assignments and complete them on time. If you fail to do either of these things, you may receive a grade penalty or receive an incomplete for the class.

Please Note

1. The use of laptop computers in class is a privilege, not a right. Students will be asked to close their laptops and give their full attention during many class sessions. Please have pen and paper available for note-taking during these times. The use of a computer or any other communication device in class for activities or purposes unrelated to the course causes a significant distraction for other students and severely disrupts the ability of students to participate fully in class. Therefore, improper use of a computer during class (including, but not limited to, composing, sending, or reading emails; instant messaging; searching or browsing the Internet; playing games; and/or viewing movies) may, at the discretion of Professor Werner, result in dismissal from the class session and/or a reduction in your final grade.
2. The syllabus is subject to change upon notice in class and/or via TWEN postings and emails. Please consult the latest draft available.
3. *Attendance is mandatory.* Attendance will be taken during each class session and individual conference. It is your obligation to ensure that you are counted present. In accordance with the University of Houston Law Center's attendance policy, you may miss no more than *five* scheduled class sessions during the semester. Thus, on your sixth absence, I will send you to the Associate Dean for Student Services where the matter of dismissal will be taken under advisement. I reserve the right to count you as absent if you are not in the classroom, or other specified location, ten minutes after the class or conference has begun.
4. The UHLC Honor Code applies to this class. Students are responsible for knowing its provisions and complying with them.
5. The Law Center uses a mandatory distribution and a grading curve for this course. The average grade in each section must be between 2.8 and 3.2.
6. 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](tel: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