

**Legal Analysis and Writing**  
**2021-2022**  
**Section 19102**  
**Professor Rachel Italiano Linn**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 am-10:30 am**  
Office: LSS Offices - Bates Law Building

**Course Objective:**

This course will focus on developing the skills necessary to succeed on each of the three sections of the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). The course will provide instruction, as well as opportunities to practice and hone the skills taught, so that students will be adequately prepared to perform each task required on both days of the Exam.

**Goals:**

- To provide an overview of the UBE
- To teach systematic problem-solving skills to enable students to succeed on the MBE
- To teach essay writing skills to enable students to write high scoring essays, as well as writing for the MPT
- To provide students with opportunities to self-reflect and garner a better understanding of the tools and skills necessary to successfully prepare for the UBE

**Class sessions:**

See the course listing for days and times

Class will meet 2 times a week for one hour-twenty minutes each session

Students will each be required to attend mandatory one-on-one advising sessions 3 times during the semester (the one-on-one advising session times will be set on an individual basis)

Instructional method: Our class will meet in-person at the Law Center for the semester.

**Reading Material:**

**Required:**

BarBri Binder – We will arrange a time to pick up a printed copy the first week of class. A digital copy is also being emailed to you.

Wanda M. Temm, *Clearing the Last Hurdle* (2d. ed. 2017).

There is an online classroom component called Matrix. You will use Matrix to submit most assignments. You will receive an email with login information to access the Matrix page. If you do not receive the email by the first day of class, please let me know ASAP. You can access the course site at <https://barbri.matrixlms.com/>

We will also use Blackboard and additional content will be added to the Blackboard website throughout the semester, as well. While I will notify you when additional material is added, please plan to check Blackboard on a regular basis.

**Recommended (for preparation for the MBE section):**

- Stephen Emmanuel, Strategies & Tactics for the MBE (5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2015)
- Adaptibar (adaptibar.com – there is a discount for UHLC students/alumni)

**Office hours:**

If you have any questions about the course, please ask me! Questions are welcome and encouraged. My office is located in the Lawyering Skills and Strategies Suite.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, or would like to discuss preparing for the bar exam, you may reach out to me. Please make an appointment if you have questions about the course, any assignments, bar preparation or licensing. During our appointment, we can review questions together, discuss study strategies, discuss the bar preparation process, and explore any questions, thoughts, or concerns you have about the course.

You may also reach out to Professor Davis with any questions, comments, or concerns about this course or the bar exam in general. She can be reached at [mlwilso3@central.uh.edu](mailto:mlwilso3@central.uh.edu), 713.743.8362 (work), or 979.574.9272 (cell). Her office is also located in the LSS Suite.

**Attendance Requirement:**

80 percent attendance in class is required. (This means each student has a five-absence limit.) I will take roll at the beginning of class. To be counted present, you must be in attendance *for the entire, and not part*, of the class session. Those individuals not satisfying the attendance requirement will be reported to UH Law Center administrative officials and may be dropped from, or fail, the course.

**Grading:**

This class is pass/fail.

To recognize the effort you put into this class from week to week, your grade will be spread across the semester. Your grade will be taken, in part, from completion of assignments, individual conferences, a class presentation, essays, MPTs, and MBEs you will begin in class and rewrite open note outside of class for a grade. The goal of these assignments is to give you an opportunity to engage with the material and strategies.

Part of your grade will come from rewriting your initial response, if requested.

*Please note: To pass this class you are required to complete 100% of all assignments (including those assigned for completion out-of-class). The failure to*

*complete 100%, including any requested re-writes or alternative assignments, will result in a failing grade for the class.*

**Student Participation:**

You are expected to discuss the assigned material in depth, so please make a commitment to be prepared. Your advanced preparation gives you the best opportunity to correctly synthesize and participate in our class discussion. Be prepared to actively engage – including reading all assigned passages and completing any and all out of class assignments.

While the class is pass/fail, students with poor class participation may have their final grade dropped from passing to failing. The decision to drop a grade for participation is at my discretion and is non-negotiable. A drop in grade due to failure to participate in class can result from a combination of unpreparedness, not paying attention in class, and absences (even if you are within the five-absence limit). Note that volunteering every class does not constitute a substantial contribution—quality, not quantity matters.

**Student Responsibilities When Absent:**

If a student is absent from class, the student has the obligation to reach out to the instructor, obtain all missed content, and submit all missed assignments. To assist in this effort, class assignments and presentations are posted to the BarBri Matrix or Blackboard after each class. *The missed material must be completed and submitted to the instructor prior to the next class meeting.* Failure of the instructor to post the assignments does not relieve the student of the duty to reach out and ask for the missed assignments in a timely manner. For example, if a student misses a Tuesday 6pm class (of a T/Th 6-7:30pm class section), the student must complete all assignments from that class meeting before class begins on Thursday at 6pm. Any assignment not timely completed may result in the student failing the class or the student may have to complete additional assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Honor Code:**

The UHLC Honor Code applies to this class. It is set forth in its entirety in the Student Handbook. You are responsible for knowing the provisions of the UHLC Honor Code, and for full compliance with all of the UHLC Honor Code provisions. Failure to comply – in any respect – with the UHLC Honor Code will result in referral to the UHLC Honor Court, and may result in you failing this class and, potentially, other sanctions as determined by the UHLC Honor Court.

*Of note, unless otherwise specifically instructed, all assignments are to be completed individually and you may not consult the internet, peers, or other resources not specifically included in the assignment instructions.*

**Computer and Phone Use:**

The use of personal computers in the classroom is permitted solely for the purpose of completing class assignments (i.e. MPT, essays). Specifically excluded from in-class computer usage is anything beyond these activities, e.g., “surfing the web” and messaging. Nonparticipation and non-responsiveness in the classroom discussion attributable to diversionary uses of your personal computer or phone constitutes an absence from the class. The use of other electronics, including recording devices, is prohibited during class time. Please be sure that all noise-making devices, including cell phones, are in silent mode or powered off. Phones should be put away during class.

**Instructor Evaluations:**

Please feel free to provide me with feedback and comments during the course of the semester as they will help me improve this program. I will carefully consider all of the comments and suggestions that I receive. Professor Davis would also love any feedback you have about the class, professor, or suggestions for how we may better support our students during the bar exam.

**Diversity, Inclusion, and Wellness:**

This is an inclusive learning space.

At UHLC, we are committed to ensuring inclusive online and classroom learning spaces, where you’ll be treated with respect and dignity, and where everyone is provided the equitable opportunity to participate, to contribute, and to succeed.

In this course, all students are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national origin, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, marital status, and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Our class is richer for this diversity.

Inclusive learning spaces facilitate the innovation and creative thought that enhance student success. This success arises from the participation, support, and understand of you and your colleagues. I encourage you to speak up and share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we’re all expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others.

If you feel like your class performance is impacted in any way by your experiences inside or outside of class, please reach out to me. I want to be a resource for you. If you feel more comfortable speaking with someone besides me, Student Services is an excellent resource: 713.743.2182. Finally, I encourage you to bring any issues negatively impacting UHLC’s openness to diversity and inclusion to the Law Center’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The D&I Committee’s charge includes “[b]uilding on the Law Center’s strengths as a diverse and inclusive environment.” You can contact the committee directly at UHLCD&I@uh.edu .

Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

**Chosen Names and Preferred Pronouns:**

I want to address each of you in a manner that corresponds to your identity. Although mistakes happen, chosen names and preferred pronouns – including non-binary ones such as they/them/their – must be respected in my classroom. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time if you want to make me aware of your chosen name or preferred pronoun or if you have concerns about how I or your classmates address you.

My pronouns are she/her. You may address me with my title, Professor.

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities:**

UHLC is committed to ensuring that all students enjoy equal access and full participation. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on a disability (including chronic or temporary medical or mental health condition), please feel free to reach out to me so that we may discuss options. If you require any support services, you may contact Ms. Samantha Ary, Academic Records Coordinator. Ms. Ary is located in room 44A TU-II in the Office of Student Services Suite, and she can be reached at [sary@central.uh.edu](mailto:sary@central.uh.edu) or 713.743.7466. Request for accommodation that involve graded assignments must be directed to Ms. Ary and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and process the request.

**Counseling and Psychological Services:**

The University of Houston's 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 or hopeless. You can reach CAPS at [www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps) and by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you know someone who is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program ([http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)), a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.

**Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policies:**

UHLC and the University of Houston are committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, a confidential reporting process is available to you. For more information, please refer to the University System's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08.

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty and other University employees are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Due to the reporting requirement, faculty members and other employees are not a confidential source. The reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy extends to alleged conduct by University employees and students.

**Proposed Course Outline:**

A separate proposed schedule for the semester will be distributed by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. It will include class assignments, homework, and relevant dates of assessments. The instructor may, of course, modify it as the semester progresses, to achieve course objectives.

Our first unit is Introduction to the Bar Exam and Torts.

**Assignments for the first week of class:**

No preparation is required for the first class.

Each class, please bring your computer, something to take notes on/with, your textbook, and your BarBri Book.

- Week One, Class One
  - Overview of the UBE
  - Get to know you
  - HW: Watch the BarBri Matrix Torts videos and complete 1) the 3 AMPs for Negligence; Duty of Care, Breach and Causation, and Defenses and Damages, and 2) the Initial Learning Quiz (Must be completed before our 4<sup>th</sup> class meeting)
- Week One, Class Two
  - Student will complete the online assessment, found on the BarBri Matrix, prior to the beginning of the second class.
  - HW: Watch the BarBri Matrix Torts videos and complete 1) the 3 AMPs for Negligence; Duty of Care, Breach and Causation, and Defenses and Damages, and 2) the Initial Learning Quiz (Must be completed before our 4<sup>th</sup> class meeting)