

LAWYERING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES I

Fall 2023 Syllabus

Professor Lauren Simpson

Sections E-1 & E-2 • Fall 2023

Please read this Syllabus and the separate Course Description as early as possible before our first class (Aug. 21).

Class Preparation: the “Information Sheet”

The class Information Sheet is your “one stop shopping,” giving pre-class work, class-session conduct, and post-class work. The Information Sheet is the first item in each class module on our Canvas web course. I use a separate Information Sheet to stay flexible, in case our class needs to evolve based on your feedback or my assessment.

Class Schedule and Assignment Due Dates¹

Class 1 (Mon., Aug. 21)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Lawyer Program I:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction to the U.S. Legal System2. Introduction to Legal Authority• Legal Research Intro (asynchronous) <p><i>Note: the (i) Ungraded Client-Advice Letter and (ii) Ungraded Legal Memo assignments will be distributed via Canvas no later than today. You don't need to do anything with them right now.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class 1 Information Sheet• Coughlin:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 15- 31 [Ch. 2]• <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 15- 31 [Ch. 2]²	



¹ Note: For the first two weeks' classes, the class coverage will be fluid, in that some topics will spill over into the next class session.

² Although the third edition is our required text and is superior, I include the second-edition pages in case a student has that earlier version instead.

Class 2 (Thurs., Aug. 24)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Lawyer Program II: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrap-up of Class 1 2. Understanding Judicial Opinions • Legal Research Intro (asynchronous) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 2 Information Sheet • Coughlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 33- 34, 45-59 [Ch. 3 Intro + § 3.2] • <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 33- 34, 43-56 [Ch. 3 Intro + §§ I & III] 	

Class 3 & Class 4 [begin] (Mon., Aug. 28)—7:30-9:25 p.m.³

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Lawyer Program III: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrap-up of Class 2 (if any) 2. Class 3—Understanding and Deriving Rules of Law 3. Class 4 (begin)—Thinking Like a Lawyer: Legal Analysis • Legal Research Intro (asynchronous) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 3 & Class 4 Information Sheets • Coughlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 61-91, 99-108 [Ch. 4; Ch. 5; Ch. 7, § 7.1(I) & (II)] • <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 57-79, 87-96 [Ch. 4; Ch. 5; Ch. 7, § 7.1(I) & (II)] 	

Class 4 [finish] & Class 5 (Thurs., Aug. 31)—7:30-9:25 p.m.

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Lawyer Program IV: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class 4 (end)—Thinking Like a Lawyer: Legal Analysis 2. Class 5—Statutory Analysis (asynchronous) + Generative AI in Law School and Practice • Legal Research Intro (asynchronous) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 5 Information Sheet • Coughlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 35-43, 193-209 [Ch. 3, § 3.1; Ch. 11] • <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 35-43, 181-97 [Ch. 3, § II; Ch. 11] 	

³ Due to Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 4), I'll cover the material from Classes 3, 4, and 5 on two days: Monday, August 28, and Thursday, August 31, adding an extra 35 minutes to each class. Accordingly, on August 28 and 31, LSS I class will run from 7:30-9:25 p.m. (with a mid-session break), and there will be no class on Monday, September 4. Combining these classes will also mean more class preparation than usual for one or both of the sessions this week, so please budget time for this.

Class 6 (Thurs., Sept. 7)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citing Authority: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to <i>The Bluebook</i> 2. Citing to Cases (asynchronous) • Informing the Client on the Case: Drafting an Informal Client-Advice Letter • Legal Research Intro (brief in-class practice) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 6 Information Sheet • Bridges & Schiess: pp. 51-64 [Ch. 5] 	

Class 7 (Mon., Sept. 11)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the Law for Your Analysis: Legal Research I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 7 Information Sheet 	Journal Assignment I (due at 6:00 p.m.)

Class 8 (Thurs., Sept. 14)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the Law for Your Analysis: Legal Research II <p><i>Note: students will have collaborative homework in small groups ("law firms") over the weekend of Sept. 15-17. I estimate the homework will take about an hour.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 8 Information Sheet 	Citation Ex. 1 (due any time of day)

Class 9 (Mon., Sept. 18)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the Law for Your Analysis: Legal Research III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 9 Information Sheet 	Citation Ex. 2 (due any time of day)

Class 10 (Thurs., Sept. 21)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the Law for Your Analysis: Legal Research IV <p><i>Note: students will have collaborative research homework in their law firms over the weekend of Sept. 22-24. This will take significant time (multiple hours), so please budget accordingly.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 10 Information Sheet 	

Fri., Sept. 22

Assignment Due
The Ungraded Client-Advice Letter assignment is due at 11:59:59 p.m. (submission via Canvas; instructions in assignment packet).

Class 11 (Mon., Sept. 25)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the Law for Your Analysis: Legal Research—Wrap-Up • Conveying Your Analysis of a Single Issue: CR[e]AC I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 11 Information Sheet • Coughlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 109-32, 179-84 [Ch. 7, §§ 7.1(III) & 7.2; Ch. 9] • <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 97-120, 167-72 [Ch. 7, §§ 7.1(III) & 7.2; Ch. 9] 	Citation Ex. 3 (due any time of day)

Class 12 (Thurs., Sept. 28)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conveying Your Analysis of a Single Issue: CR[e]AC II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 12 Information Sheet • Coughlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 141-77, 185-92 [Ch. 8; Ch. 10] • <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 129-65, 173-80 [Ch. 8; Ch. 10] 	

Class 13 (Mon., Oct. 2)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conveying Your Analysis of a Single Issue: CR[e]AC III • Drafting Your Analysis for Your Supervisor: Legal Memo I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 13 Information Sheet • Coughlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 3-14, pp. 211-26 [Ch. 1; Ch. 12] • <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 3-13, 199-215 [Ch. 1; Ch. 12] 	Citation Ex. 4 (due any time of day)

Class 14 (Thurs., Oct. 5)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting Your Analysis for Your Supervisor: Legal Memo II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 14 Information Sheet • Coughlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 229-57 [Ch. 13; Ch. 14; Ch. 15] • <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 217-45 [Ch. 13; Ch. 14; Ch. 15] 	Journal Assignment II (due at 6:00 p.m.)

Class 15 (Mon., Oct. 9)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting Your Analysis for Your Supervisor: Legal Memo III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 15 Information Sheet • Coughlin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3d ed</u>: pp. 133-19, 259-80 [Ch. 7, § 7.3; Ch. 16] • <u>2d ed</u>: pp. 121- 28, 247-71 [Ch. 7, § 7.3; Ch. 16] 	Citation Ex. 5 (due any time of day)



Class 16 (Thurs., Oct. 12)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting Your Analysis for Your Supervisor: Legal Memo—Wrap Up• Citing Authority:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Citation Diagnostic2. Citation Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class 16 Information Sheet	

Class 17 (Mon., Oct. 16)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting Your Client's Contract: Turning the Deal into a Contract (begin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class 17 Information Sheet• Stark (just skim):<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ch. 1, §§ 1.1 to 1.4• Ch. 2• Ch. 3, §§ 3.1, 3.2.1 to 3.3.2, 3.4• Ch. 4, all but § 4.2.3	

Class 18 (Thurs., Oct. 19)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting Your Client's Contract:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Turning the Deal into a Contract (end)2. Parts of a Contract—The Frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class 18 Information Sheet• Stark (no exercises; just skim):<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ch. 5, all but § 5.10• Ch. 6, all but §§ 6.2.2 and 6.5• Ch. 7, all but §§ 7.5.3 and 7.6• Ch.17, §§ 17.1 to 17.4.3	

Fri., Oct. 20

Assignment Due
The Ungraded Legal Memo assignment is due at 11:59:59 p.m. (submission via Canvas; instructions in assignment packet). <i>Note: the Graded Legal Memo assignment will be distributed via Canvas this morning.</i>

Class 19 (Mon., Oct. 23)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting Your Client’s Contract: Parts of a Contract—The Picture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 19 Information Sheet • Stark (no exercises; just skim): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 8, §§ 8.1 to 8.4 • Ch. 9 • Ch. 10, §§ 10.1 to 10.2 • Ch. 11, §§ 11.1 to 11.2 • Ch. 12 • Ch. 13 • Ch. 14 • Ch. 15, §§ 15.1, 15.8, 15.9 • Ch. 16, § 16.1 	

Class 20 (Thurs., Oct. 26)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting Your Client’s Contract: Putting the Contract Together (the Drafting Process) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 20 Information Sheet • Stark (no exercises; read carefully): Ch. 26, §§ 26.1 to 26.3.4 	

Graded Quiz: Basic CR[e]AC Understanding—in lieu of Class 21 (Mon., Oct. 30)

Topic
<p>Graded Quiz: Basic CR[e]AC Understanding: 7:45-9:00 p.m.; usual classroom; closed materials</p> <p><i>Note: the quiz starts 15 minutes later than our class session normally begins, so that students have a short break between their earlier class and this quiz.</i></p>



Mandatory conferences for Graded Legal Memo assignment (Mon., Oct. 30–Sat., Nov. 4)

Conferences	Assignment(s) Due
<p>Individual Conferences with Senior Partner Simpson to Discuss Graded Legal Memo assignment (mandatory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Monday, Oct. 30</u>: Graded Quiz: Basic CR[e]AC Understanding (7:45-9:00 p.m.) • <u>Thursday, Nov. 2</u>: no LSS class (asynchronous CYOA! assignment instead) • No office hours on Monday or Thursday • Sign-up sheet linked in assignment packet and on Canvas • Held via Zoom • One conference per student • More information in assignment packet, including mandatory materials to bring to the conference 	

First CYOA! class module (for week of October 30)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose Your Own Adventure! <p>Please select one asynchronous CYOA! assignment under the “CYOA! Topics” Canvas module.⁴</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see the Information Sheet for your selected Adventure. 	<p>Whatever assessment or confirmation your chosen CYOA! assignment requires (due any time this week)</p>

Class 23 (Mon., Nov. 6)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting Your Client’s Contract: <p>Clear and Unambiguous Drafting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 23 Information Sheet • Stark (no exercises; just skim): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 18 • Ch. 19, §§ 19.1 to 19.5 • Ch. 20 • Ch. 23, §§ 23.3, 23.4 	<p>Journal Assignment III (due any time of day)</p>

⁴ Each asynchronous CYOA! assignment takes around 80 minutes to complete. When added together, (i) the CYOA! asynchronous assignments, (ii) your 30-minute mandatory conference, and (iii) the “Graded Quiz: Basic CR[e]AC Understanding” capture the usual time for both classes each of the two conference weeks.

Class 24 (Thurs., Nov. 9)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting Your Client's Contract: Putting It All Together—A Practical Exercise on Contract Drafting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 24 Information Sheet 	

Sat., Nov. 11

Assignment Due
<p>The Graded Legal Memo assignment is due at 11:59:59 p.m. (submission via Canvas; instructions in assignment packet).</p> <p><i>Note: the Graded Contract assignment will be distributed via Canvas this morning.</i></p>

Class 25 (Mon., Nov. 13)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting Your Client's Contract: Wrap-up • Citation Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 25 Information Sheet 	

Graded Quiz: Citation—in lieu of Class 26 (Thurs., Nov. 16)

Topic
<p>Graded Quiz: Citation: 7:45-9:00 p.m.; multiple-choice format; usual classroom; 10 questions; open materials</p> <p><i>Note: the quiz starts 15 minutes later than our class session normally begins, so that students have a short break between their earlier class and our quiz.</i></p>



Conferences for the Graded Contract assignment (Nov. 17-18, 20-22)

Conferences	Assignment(s) Due
<p>Individual Conferences with Senior Partner Simpson to Discuss Graded Contract (mandatory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No LSS I class sessions or office hours this week • Sign-up sheet linked in assignment packet and on Canvas • Held via Zoom • One conference per student • More information in assignment packet, including mandatory materials to bring to the conference 	

Second CYOA! class module (for week of Nov. 20)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose Your Own Adventure! <p>Please select a second asynchronous CYOA! assignment from the “CYOA! Topics” Canvas module and complete it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see the Information Sheet for your selected Adventure. 	<p>Whatever assessment or confirmation your chosen CYOA! assignment requires (due any time this week)</p> <p><u>Note:</u> the due date for each CYOA! assignment will change to the end of the week of Nov. 20.</p>

Sat., Dec. 2

Assignment(s) Due
<p>The Graded Contract assignment is due at 11:59:59 p.m. (submission via Canvas; instructions in assignment packet).</p>

The Syllabus may be modified as needed to achieve course objectives.

This shimmering-winged butterfly is a [Pipevine Swallowtail](#) (*Battus philenor*), sunning on a [Butterfly Gaura](#) cultivar (*Oenothera lindheimeri*) in our home wildlife-habitat gardens last year.

