

# Lawyering Skills and Strategies

## Fall 2024 | Professor Christina Crozier

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**Course Objectives.** In this class, we will develop and improve your legal writing skills. These skills will be critical to your success during law school, on the bar exam, and in your legal practice.

This semester, you will learn how to:

- Understand the sources, hierarchy, and precedential value of laws.
- Identify legal rules in case law, dissect rules into their basic components, and synthesize legal rules using multiple sources.
- Identify issues that apply to a client's case.
- Execute online legal research and select appropriate authority to address issues in the client's case.
- Apply case precedent and enacted law to the client's case.
- Translate legal research and analysis into objective writing that is organized effectively, conveys relevant content clearly, and omits extraneous matters.
- Understand and draft Bluebook and Greenbook citations.
- Improve grammar and punctuation.
- Conduct yourself professionally both in person and in writing.

### **Required Texts.**

- Legal Writing (Fifth Edition) by Richard K Neumann Jr., Sheila Simon, Suzianna D. Painter-Thorne (Aspen Publishing)
- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st Edition)
- Texas Rules of Form: The Greenbook (15th Edition)

**Assessment and Late Submissions.** Your grade will be determined based on your performance of the following tasks:

Assignment	Final Grade	Due Date
Legal research assessments	15%	<i>Passim</i>
Email assignment	20%	TBD
Graded legal memorandum	40%	TBD
Final Exam	25%	TBD

This course is graded anonymously. Assignments turned in late without an extension will result in a grade reduction. I will consider extensions for true emergencies only. Be advised: computer problems and routine illnesses do not constitute true emergencies.

**Syllabus.** I will provide a complete syllabus on the first day of class.

**Honor Code.** The UHLC Honor Code will apply to each assignment. Among other things, this means that you may NOT work together on any assignments for this class unless otherwise instructed by me. You may not plagiarize another's work. And you may not share your own work with another student. For more information about the UHLC Honor Code, please consult the code itself, [available at this link](#).

**Attendance and Class Administration.** This class will meet in person. Be prepared to discuss the lecture material that I assign for each class. I will call on you at random. If you will not be prepared for class, please email me before class to let me know.

**Inclusion.** I want to address each of you in a manner that respects your name and identity. Please reach out to me at any time if you want to make me aware of your chosen name or preferred pronouns, or if you have concerns about how your classmates or I address you, including the pronunciation of your name. You may call me "Professor Crozier." My pronouns are she/her/hers.

**Academic Adjustments and Auxiliary Aids.** The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment, or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting [this website](#), calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing [jdcenter@central.uh.edu](mailto:jdcenter@central.uh.edu).

**Mental Health and Wellness Resources.** The University of Houston has numerous resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment, and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit [uh.edu/caps](http://uh.edu/caps), call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now? If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988.

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) also supports law students who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health problems. You can reach TLAP at any time at 1-800-343-8527. [TLAP's website](#) includes a page with links to resources about mental health that are of interest to law students. Check it out.

**Title IX/Sexual Misconduct.** Per the UH Sexual Misconduct Policy, I am a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which I become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources here on [the Title IX website](#).