

SYLLABUS ADMIRALTY, MARITIME COMMERCE

FALL 2026 : 5377-25762

PROFESSOR

Kenneth G. Engerrand (Adjunct Professor).

JUDGE JOHN R. BROWN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION QUALIFICATION

This course is one of the three Admiralty Law courses whose students qualify to receive the annual merit-based scholarship (\$5,000) funded by The Judge John R. Brown Scholarship Foundation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE/GOALS/OUTCOMES

How is that 1500 people died in the sinking of the TITANIC, yet its owner paid less than \$100,000 in damages (the value of the lifeboats that remained after the sinking)? What hurdles are there when you represent one of 500,000 claimants from the oil spill from the DEEPWATER HORIZON? What are the procedural repercussions when a vessel strikes a bridge and stops all traffic to a major United States port? Where do you bring a suit from an international transaction that went awry? What do you need to know when, as a successful attorney, you decide to buy your own boat?

Admiralty, Maritime Commerce teaches the jurisdictional and procedural principles that practitioners confront in one of the most important areas of litigation and transactional work in the Texas Gulf Coast--maritime disputes arising at the waterfront, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in international commerce. It also addresses substantive principles (except personal injury) for collisions, cargo, limitation of liability, salvage (including treasure salvage), towage, and liens.

CLASS MEETING (FACE-TO-FACE)

This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the assigned classroom.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken during each class. In order to pass this class, students are expected to attend a minimum of 80% of the classes, in person, in the classroom.

PREPARATION AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

This class will be presented primarily in a lecture format, although questions and discussion are encouraged throughout the class.

REQUIRED TEXT AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be to *Cases and Materials, Admiralty Maritime Commerce*, by Kenneth G. Engerrand, which will be provided to the students prior to the start of classes. Reading assignments are:

Aug. 25, 27	Chapter 1, Sources of Admiralty Law
Sept. 1, 3, 8	Chapter 2, Admiralty Jurisdiction
Sept. 10, 15, 17	Chapter 3, Admiralty Procedure
Sept. 22, 24, 29	Chapter 4, Maritime Contracts
Oct. 1, 6	Chapter 5, Maritime Liens and Ship Mortgages
Oct. 8, 13, 15, 20, 22	Chapter 6, Carriage of Goods
Oct. 27, 29	Chapter 7, Collision
Nov. 3	Chapter 8, Towage and Pilotage
Nov. 5	Chapter 9, Salvage
Nov. 10	Chapter 10, General Average
Nov. 12, 17, 19	Chapter 11, Limitation of Liability
Nov. 24	Discussion of Practice Final Exam

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The best contact is by email to kengerrand@brownsims.com. Contact can also be made by phone at the direct line, (713) 351-6270.

EXAMINATION AND GRADING

Your grade will be your score on an open-book essay final examination administered in the assigned classroom during the Law Center's scheduled examination period. Pass/Fail is available for the final examination in this course.

USE OF COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS IN CLASS

Out of respect for other students and the class environment, during class sessions computers are to be used only for note-taking purposes and reference to the assigned casebook. This prohibits computer use for Internet surfing, chat rooms, e-mail, or other uses not related to the class material. I reserve the right to treat violations of this policy as either a lack of preparation, a constructive lack of attendance, or, in appropriate circumstances, as a disruption of the class. In addition, during class please disable the speaker on your computer and refrain from displaying wallpaper, screen savers, or other material on your laptop computer screen that can reasonably be expected to offend or distract your classmates. Also, please ensure that all other noise-making electronics, such as watches, cell phones, pagers, etc., are in a silent mode or are powered off.

HONOR CODE

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please ask me if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to my course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

AI GENERATED WORK PRODUCT

The software technology known as artificial intelligence has recently expanded its capability to generate text and other work product (AI Generated Work Product). Examples of the technology include what are known as "generative" large language models (LLMs), and a specific implementation that is

well known in the general public as ChatGPT. These systems can generate text and other work product in response to prompts and/or input of other text/documents/code/images. The output, the AI Generated Work Product, appears to have human-mimicking “intelligence” and is thus potentially usable as a substitute for material that the student might otherwise generate. AI Generated Work Product can include computer code or programs as well as human language content and materials.

Your continuing enrollment in this course obligates you to not knowingly prompt, generate, or use any AI Generated Work Product in relation to any activity or assessment in this course. This applies to AI Generated Work Product from yourself or others. This obligation includes that your assessment materials in the course be without any contribution from AI Generated Work Product. This obligation specifically extends to not plagiarizing any writing required of you for assessment in the course. AI Generated Work Product will be treated as from another/others in applying the plagiarism policy to this course. The term “assessment” means any material generated for this course that is submitted to the instructor or presented in a class session, regardless of whether it is graded content or not. Assessments include final exams. AI Generated Work Product may not be used in the development or drafting of any assessments created by you in a non-proctored environment, such as a “take-home” final examination.

STUDENT PROFESSIONALISM

Our classroom is a learning space where each student is treated with respect and dignity and where everyone is provided the opportunity to participate, contribute, and succeed. In this course, all students are welcome regardless of background or identity. I expect every class member to remember that in this learning environment, we will engage respectfully and with professionalism toward each other. In the words of the Texas Lawyer’s Creed, “[a] lawyer should always adhere to the highest principles of professionalism.”

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

The University of Houston has a number of 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, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk has daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

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, or chat 988lifeline.org.

TITLE IX/SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is 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 the instructor becomes 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 on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

REASONABLE ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS/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 (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to the student. 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 the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/>, calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

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.

The Center for Student Advocacy and Community (CSAC) is where you can go if you need help but do not know where to start. CSAC is a “home away from home” and serves as a resource hub to help you get the resources needed to support academic and personal success. Through our Cougar Cupboard, all students can get up to 30 pounds of FREE groceries a week. Additionally, we provide 1:1 appointments to get you connected to on- and off-campus resources related to essential needs, safety and advocacy, and more. The Cougar Closet is a registered

student organization advised by our office and offers free clothes to students so that all Coogs can feel good in their fit. We also host a series of cultural and community-based events that fosters social connection and helps the cougar community come closer together. Visit the CSAC homepage or follow us on Instagram: @uh CSAC and @uhcupbrd. YOU belong here.

WOMEN AND GENDER RESOURCE CENTER

The mission of the Women and Gender Resource Center is to advance the University of Houston and promote the access of all students, faculty, and staff through educating, empowering, and supporting the UH community. The WGRC suite is open to you. Stop by the office for a study space, to take a break, grab a snack, or check out one of the WGRC programs or resources. Stop by Student Center South room B12 (Basement floor near Starbucks and down the hall from Creation Station) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

RECORDING OF CLASS

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advance written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

SYLLABUS CHANGES AND CHANGES TO THE INSTRUCTION MODE

Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible in class and by email to the students.