

LSS ~ Spring 2023

Professor Brem

Book Office Hours [Here](#)

Class Description. Last fall LSS learning objectives focused on acquiring basic legal skills: analysis, research, communication, and citation. This spring learning objectives will focus on improving these basic skills, as well as applying them in practice-based litigation and transactional scenarios. We will also discuss legal writing you may be asked to complete on the bar exam; for the journal write-on competition; in an upper-level writing seminar course; or as a judicial intern.

Assessment. You will be assessed based on your completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Final Grade	Due Date
Group Citation & Writing Tasks	10% (completion grade)	<i>Passim</i>
Motion for Summary Judgment	45%	Argument Summary Mid February Final Motion Late February
Contract Review Memorandum	45%	Late April

The course is graded anonymously and pursuant to Law Center grading policies set forth in the [Student Handbook](#). The UHLC Honor Code applies.

Course Materials. You will not be required to purchase any additional textbooks for the spring semester. Be sure you retain the *Legal Writing in Plain English*, the *Bluebook*, and the *Greenbook* you rented or purchased last semester.

Attendance, Class Recordings, and Class Management. Class will meet just once a week, face-to-face, and is governed by the Law Center attendance policy. Section A3 meets on Tuesdays from 1 – 3 p.m. and Section B1 meets on Thursdays from 1 – 3 p.m. If necessary and classroom technology permits, you may attend this class virtually up to two times this semester. Consult Blackboard for the proper Microsoft Teams Link. Be prepared to discuss the lecture material that I assign for each day of 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.

Legal Writing Center: An excellent resource for free individual tutoring during the regular semester is the Legal Writing Center. The Center is staffed with successful second- and third-year law students – our “Writing Fellows” – who can help you with legal writing and other academic concerns.

With regard to graded assignments, each professor has different rules about how much assistance the Legal Writing Center may offer. Before approaching the Writing Center, be sure to confirm with your professor a) that you make seek assistance, and b) what type of assistance will be available to you. Ask a question or schedule an appointment with a Legal Writing Fellow by emailing them [here](#).

Inclusion:

- **Preferred Pronouns.** I want to address each of you in a manner that corresponds to your identity. Feel free to 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.
- **Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids:** The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact [the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#) (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES) and Samantha Ary, Academic Records Coordinator at the Law Center. Ms. Ary's office is in the Office of Student Services suite. She can be reached at sary@central.uh.edu or (713) 743-7466. Requests for accommodation that involve graded assignments should be directed to Ms. Ary as soon as possible to allow adequate time to process the request.

University Syllabus Provisions:

- **Wellness Resources:** The University of Houston offers Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to 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 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 available at convenient locations and hours around campus: www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html.
- 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: www.tlahelps.org/law-students. Check it out!
- **Class Recordings:** I will record classes and post links to these recordings on the class web course as soon as they are available. You may use these recordings for your own studying and notetaking purposes, but please do not share them with anyone without my prior written permission. University procedures require that your failure to comply with these requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.
- **COVID-19:** If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see [Student Protocols](#) for what to do if you experience symptoms and [Potential Exposure to Coronavirus](#) for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Students are encouraged to visit the University's [COVID-19](#) website for important information including diagnosis and symptom protocols, on-campus testing, and vaccine information. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

Syllabus. Each week we will cover the following material. I will post required weekly readings and assignments on Blackboard. To better address student needs, this syllabus may change.

Persuasive Writing Trial Practice	
1 Week of Jan 16	Introduction to Advocacy and Motion Practice Writing Focus 1: Assessing Argument
2 Week of Jan 23	Setting the Stage: Understanding Case Theory and the Persuasive Value of Facts Writing Focus 2: Crafting an Argument
3 Week of Jan 30	Summarizing the Argument: A Sneak Peek Drafting the Argument: Identify Characters and a Provide a Clear Story Line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Write for the reader. ➤ Begin with a discrete statement of the issue(s). ➤ Use headings, umbrella paragraphs, and transitions to establish a lucid train of thought. ➤ Use quotations sparingly and make them irresistible. Writing Focus 3: Compare Tables of Contents Phrasing Sentences & Choosing Words
4 Week of Feb 6	Drafting the Argument Summary Improving Paragraph Flow Writing Focus 4: Assessing Argument Summary
5 Week of Feb 13	Strategies to Improve Case Analogies & the Art of Rebuttal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How to use the other side's cases against them. ➤ How to effectively distinguish adverse case law. ➤ How to reinvigorate your own case law. Writing Focus 5: Dealing with Adverse Authority
6 Week of Feb 20	Student Conferences
Legal Writing Beyond LSS: MPT Practice & Methods	
7 Week of Feb 27	A Return to Objective Writing: MPT Practice & Methods
8 Week of Mar 6	In-Class Practice MPT
SPRING BREAK March 13 - 18	
Reflective Writing Transactional Practice	
10 Week of Mar 20	Introduction to Transactional Practice and the Plain Language Act of 2010 Writing Focus 6: Eliminating Ambiguities

11 Week of Mar 27	The Art of the Deal: Translating a Business Deal into Contract Concepts
12 Week of Apr 3	Papering the Deal 1: Writing Principles for Document Drafting
13 Week of Apr 10	Papering the Deal 2: Principles of Document Design Writing Focus 7: Contract Revisions
14 Week of Apr 17	Citation Wrap-Up
Legal Writing Beyond LSS: Judicial Internships & the Journal Write-On Competition	
15 Apr 24	Best Practices for a Successful Judicial Internship Scholarly Writing for the Journal Write-On Competition and Seminar Courses

As always, please reach out with any questions. I look forward to welcoming you all back to class.

Professor Brem