

LAWYERING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES II

Spring 2026 Syllabus

Professor Lauren Simpson
Section E-1

Please read this Syllabus and the separate Course Description as early as possible before our first class (Thurs., Jan. 22, 2026). Section E-2 has a separate Syllabus and Course Description. If you don't remember your assigned LSS section, you may check on AccessUH or under "memberships" in your Outlook profile, or you may contact OSA.

Class "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 for two reasons: (i) to stay flexible, in case our class needs to evolve based on your feedback or my assessment, and (ii) to keep private student information, which appears in some documents that I link in these sheets.

Class Schedule and Assignment Due Dates

Class 1 (Thurs., Jan. 22)—Both LSS Sections Combined Due to Jan. 19 MLK Day Holiday

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<p>Communicating with the Opposing Party and Counsel (focus on the demand letter)</p> <p>Guest facilitator: Mr. Iain Simpson, Simpson P.C.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Graded Demand Letter assignment (20% of grade) will be distributed by Canvas after Class 1.</i> <i>The Ungraded Motion for Partial Summary Judgment assignment will be distributed by Canvas by today. You don't need to do anything with it right now.</i> 	Class 1 Information Sheet	<p>Student Self-Assessment Questionnaire: due no later than 11:59:59 p.m. on Sun., January 18, by email. Students must also sign up by that date for a 15-minute meeting during this week to discuss their self-assessment. Please see the Course Description and Class 1 Information Sheet for specifics.</p>

Class 2 (Mon., Jan. 26)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
The Art of Legal Persuasion: Advocating Effectively for Your Client	Class 2 Information Sheet	

Class 3 (Mon., Feb. 2)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Texas: Greenbook Citation and the Nuances of Higher-court Review	Class 3 Information Sheet	The first draft of the Graded Demand Letter assignment is due at or before noon (by Canvas; instructions in assignment packet). I'll return feedback no later than day's end on Saturday, February 7.

Class 4 (Mon., Feb. 9)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Motion Practice I	Class 4 Information Sheet	

Sat., Feb. 14

Assignment Due
The final version of the Graded Demand Letter assignment is due at or before 11:59:59 p.m. (by Canvas; instructions in assignment packet).

Class 5 (Mon., Feb. 16)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Motion Practice II	Class 5 Information Sheet	

Class 6 (Mon., Feb. 23)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Writing Workshop I	Class 6 Information Sheet	Student law-firm research on Ungraded Motion for Partial Summary Judgment assignment

Class 7 (Mon., Mar. 2)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Writing Workshop II <i>Note: we're in a different classroom tonight (which the Information Sheet reveals), due to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' campus visit.</i>	Class 7 Information Sheet	

Thurs., Mar. 5

Assignment Due
Texas citation exercise (due any time of day)

Class 8 (Mon., Mar. 9)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Citation: Diagnostic and Practice, Round I (Texas citation)	Class 8 Information Sheet	

Thurs., Mar. 12

Assignment Due
Signals & Parentheticals citation exercise (due any time of day)

Sat., Mar. 14

Assignment Due
The Ungraded Motion for Partial Summary Judgment assignment is due at 11:59:59 p.m. (by Canvas; instructions in assignment packet).
<i>Note: the Graded Motion for Summary Judgment assignment (55% of grade) will be distributed by Canvas today.</i>

Spring Break (Week of Mar. 16)

No LSS class or office hours this week
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Class 9 (Mon., Mar. 23)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Citation: Diagnostic and Practice, Round II (Texas citation + signals and parentheticals)	Class 9 Information Sheet	

Thurs., Mar. 26

Assignment Due
Statutory citation exercise (due any time of day)

Mandatory Conferences on Graded Motion for Summary Judgment assignment (Week of Mar. 30)

Conferences
Individual Conferences with Senior Partner Simpson to Discuss Graded Motion for Summary Judgment assignment (mandatory) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No office hours or in-person class this week (conferences + CYOA! asynchronous class module instead) • Sign-up sheet linked in assignment packet • One 30-minute conference per student, by Zoom • More information in assignment packet, including mandatory materials to bring to the conference

CYOA! Class Module: Week of Mar. 30

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose Your Own Adventure! Please select one asynchronous CYOA! assignment under the “CYOA! Topics” Canvas module.¹ • Citation Potpourri Exercise 	Please see the Information Sheet for your chosen Adventure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatever assessment or confirmation your chosen Adventure requires (due any time this week) • Citation Potpourri exercise (due any time this week)

Class 11 (Mon., Apr. 6)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Citation: Diagnostic and Practice, Round III (all citation topics to date)	Class 11 Information Sheet	

Class 12 (Mon., Apr. 13)

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Writing Workshop III—Editing and Polishing Your Persuasive Writing Effectively	Class 12 Information Sheet	

Thurs., Apr. 16

Assignment Due
Journal Assignment I (due at 6:00 p.m.)

¹ Asynchronous CYOA! assignments take at least ≈ 80 minutes to complete, so that an Adventure’s completion, plus your 30-minute mandatory conference, captures the usual class-time span for this week. Some of the CYOA! assignments are from fall 2025, and some are new; please select one you haven’t done before.

Graded Citation Quiz—in Lieu of Class 13 (Thurs., Apr. 23)—Both LSS Sections Together

Graded Citation Quiz (15% of grade): 7:35-9:15 p.m.; multiple-choice format; 15 questions; open materials; usual classroom

Note: the exam starts 5 minutes later than our class session normally begins, so that students have a sufficient break (15 minutes) between their earlier class and our exam.

Class 14 (Mon., Apr. 27)—Both LSS Sections Combined to Accommodate Guest-Speaker Panel

Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
<u>Panel discussion</u> : real-life legal experience in, and practical advice for, an array of practice areas <u>Esteemed panelists</u> : TBA	Class 14 Information Sheet	

Sat., May 2

Assignment Due
The Graded Motion for Summary Judgment assignment is due at 11:59:59 p.m. (by Canvas; instructions in assignment packet).

1. Syllabus modification. The syllabus may be modified as needed to achieve course objectives.
2. Optional presentation. Prof. S. will conduct an optional appellate-oral-argument presentation, which can count as a CYOA assignment, at a date TBD (recorded for those who can't attend). Please see the Canvas "Welcome Center" module for details.

Welcome back to LSS: I look forward to working with you again this semester!



This beautiful creature is a male [Longhorn Bee](#) (Tribe Eucerini), shown here on a [Firewheel](#) (Gaillardia pulchella), a native prairie flower. Longhorn Bees get their common name because the males have long antennae—which is frankly an adorable way to describe these bees. :) Learn more about Longhorn Bees [here](#).