ADVANCED LEGAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIES  
SPRING 2016

Professor:  Twinette L. Johnson  
Office: Room 224  
Phone: 618-536-8463  
Email: tjohnson@siu.edu  
Office Hours:  Drop ins/apptmts (open door policy)

Class Times: Thursdays 3:00–4:50 – Room

ASSIGNED TEXTS:
Required: BarBri materials distributed in class
Other materials provided by professors

Recommended (not required):
Pass The Bar!, Riebe and Schwartz
Acing the Bar Exam, Darrow-Kleinhaus

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING GOALS/OBJECTIVES:
Advanced Legal Analysis and Strategies (ALAS) will introduce and reinforce bar examination study and test taking skills through in depth exploration of each part of the bar exam (multiple choice (MBE), essay (MEE) and multi state performance exam (MPT)). In addition, ALAS seeks to strengthen those ancillary skills – analyzing, studying and memorizing the substantive information – that directly influence student success on the bar exam. Through detailed and specific simulation and practice, students will be become familiar with best practices for studying for and taking each component of a state’s bar exam (MBE, MEE and MPT). Students will view bar lectures, create processing products and memorization tools, develop strategies for organizing and writing answers to essays and performance tests and practice strategies for answering multiple choice questions. ALAS is not a replacement for a traditional commercial bar preparation course which seeks to provide all the necessary substantive information. Rather, it is a course meant to complement the commercial bar course with skill development necessary for bar exam success.

COURSE INSTRUCTION:
Professor Johnson has extensive experience in this field and is the expert professor in this course. She will conduct most of the lectures, and she will grade assignments, give feedback and provide advice to students. Professor McCubbin will be assisting with grading, giving feedback, and advising students.

PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS:
As you know, your professional legal career began when you started law school. As you look to completing law school and becoming practicing attorneys, we want you to continue learning and practicing the professional behavior expected of you as attorneys in the legal profession. To that end, please read and familiarize yourself with the following specifics:

Assignments:  
You are responsible for all assigned reading (including exercises) whether or not it is covered in class. You must also complete all additional assignments as they are assigned during the semester. The syllabus reflects Professor Johnson’s best approximation of the time needed to cover each topic. If necessary, we will modify the schedule and advise you of any changes.

Attendance, Preparation and Participation:  
Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. As a professional courtesy, please notify Professor Johnson and Professor McCubbin in advance if you must miss class. You are allowed two absences in this class. Attendance will be taken during each class. You must attend both hours of class to be counted present. No one may sign for another student. Please arrive on time so as not to disrupt the class in progress. If you miss class three times, you may receive an UNSATISFACTORY (U) for this course. If you miss two classes, Professor Johnson will contact the Associate Dean regarding your absence and inform him of the potential result if you miss an additional class and the resultant effect on your grade.

The School of Law’s attendance policies, informed by the Standards of Accreditation of the American Bar Association, requires regular and punctual class attendance by all students. At the beginning of each class, a class list will be passed around for initialing. No one may initial for another student. Please arrive on time so as not to disrupt the class in progress.

Preparation: You are expected to attend and be prepared to participate in every class. The format of each class will consist of an overview of the day, lecture/discussion of the materials read for homework as well as new topics and moving beyond the course reading with discussion and practice of a particular bar exam part and the applicable test taking skills.
While readings and exercises alone will not fully inform you, they are an important step in learning the process of studying for, memorizing and answering an exam question.

Participation: Being prepared means completing any assigned readings and exercises, taking the time to understand them and being able to engage in class discussion regarding the materials. To facilitate class discussion, we will primarily seek volunteers but reserve the right to call on students.

Class Recording: You are not allowed to record any portion of this course. In addition, no portion of this course will be recorded by the Law School’s IT department unless otherwise notified.

Deadlines and Extensions:
All written assignments are due on the dates indicated and should be turned in according to the instructions given. Extensions will only be granted before an assignment’s deadline and only in the case of an unforeseeable emergency. All assignments are due by 11:00 pm on the date specified in the syllabus. All assignments (including the final assignments) are due electronically, via TWEN, at 11:00 pm on the due date listed (unless otherwise noted).

Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices:
During class, you may not use laptops, cell phones, or other electronic devices in any manner that is likely to interfere with your class participation or that of other students.

General Grading Criteria:
This course will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. To determine whether a “satisfactory” is warranted, points will be earned for each assignment/exercise. To receive a grade of satisfactory, you must earn 390 points total. These points may come from completion or quality points. There will be no distinction in adding up the final points. You will receive specific criteria and directions for each assignment/exercise as it is assigned.

Your grade on assignments/exercises will be based on completion (timely turning in assignments that comply with the given directions) and quality (gradual assimilation and evidence of adopting the necessary skill level for bar exam success). Style (word choice, precision and conciseness) and mechanics (grammar, spelling and other technical aspects) will also be considered on all assignments whether they be completion or quality type assignments.

Points needed for passing – 390 (total completion (C) and/or quality (Q))

Class Preparation:
The American Bar Association standards for accrediting law schools contain a formula for calculating the amount of work that constitutes one credit hour. According to ABA Standard 310(b)(1), “a “credit hour” is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: (1) not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.” This is a 2-credit hour class, meaning that we will spend two 50-minute blocks of time together each week (a 100-minute block each Thursday). The amount of assigned reading and out of class preparation should take you about 4 hours for each week’s class. Applying the ABA standard to the number of credits offered for this class, you should plan on spending a total of 6 hours per week (2 in class and 4 preparing for class) on course-related work.

COMMUNICATION:
TWEN:
The professors will contact you frequently using TWEN – a Westlaw application. Please register for TWEN as soon as possible. You will be asked to provide your email address as part of the registration process. You can reach the TWEN website by going to www.lawschool.westlaw.com, signing in and selecting the course entitled ADVANCED LEGAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIES – Spring 2016. Please note that TWEN mail will sometimes be sent to your junk or spam folders. Adjust your email settings so that you receive your messages.

Email:
The professors may communicate with you through your “siu.edu” email accounts. Therefore, you should check your siu mail regularly. If you use a different e-mail address, you should have your siu mail forwarded to that address. If, during the course of the semester, you think you have not received group messages sent to your classmates (through TWEN or siu mail), please consult with IT to solve the problem.

Communicating with the Professor via Email:
While we prefer face to face communication, you may contact us with your questions via email (tjohnson@siu.edu or mccubbin@siu.edu). While response times will vary, we will make every effort to respond quickly to your messages. On
occasion, you may ask a question that is better answered during a face to face meeting. If that is the case, we may request that you see one of us in person so we can fully discuss your question.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Disability:**
Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. [http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/](http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/). Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar’s Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

**Saluki Cares:**
The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, [http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html](http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html). At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is judiray@siu.edu, and her phone number is 618-453-3135.

**Emergency Procedures:**
Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety’s website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

_The goal of this course is to fill in the gap left by the commercial bar course providers. Its goal is to instill in students the skills and confidence necessary to undertake bar study and ultimately be successful on the bar exam. As such, this course will not undertake to provide a review of all the substantive material typically studied in preparation for a bar exam. While some of that substantive material may be used during the course, it will be used as a vehicle for reviewing, learning and instilling the skills necessary for bar exam success. We hope to introduce you to this process of bar study in a way that is engaging and stimulating for you. Even still, it will take a great deal of work to understand the concepts associated with this process, but your diligence and commitment to learning will propel you through it. We look forward to exploring the process with you in the coming weeks!_

_Professor Johnson and Professor McCubbin_
WEEK ONE (January 21) – Course Introduction (Syllabus, Class Rules, etc.)/Introduction to the Bar Exam/Initial Skills Assessment (10 points (C))/Organizing the Study Environment/Week in the life of a law student/bar candidate; Read Chapter copies on pink paper (pick up copy from Carol Manis in room 243)

TO TURN IN by January 26th: Week long law school schedule – include everything (5 points (C))/Journal answers (20 points (C))/due to TWEN.

WEEK TWO (January 28) – Study Schedules – macro & micro/Bar Course Lectures/Processing Bar Course Lecture Notes

TO TURN IN on February 2nd: Two weeks bar exam schedule (14 days) – include everything (5 points (C)/5 points (Q))/Sample Processing Product that you wrote (most recent) – (5 points (C))/Journal of Strategy regarding skills assessment and study environment (20 points (C)).

WEEK THREE (February 4) – Moving from the Bar Course Lecture to the Processing Product and from the Processing Product to Memorization (Watch PANOPTO video prior to class)/BarBri’s BEAT Contracts Lecture

TO TURN IN on February 9th: Quiz on PANOPTO video presentation (10 points (Q))/First part of BEAT Contracts Lecture Processing Product (10 points (C))

WEEK FOUR (February 11) – BEAT Contracts Lecture Continued if necessary/Bar Exam Essays/Using the Processing Product to Answer an Essay Question/Memorization Techniques

TO TURN IN on February 15th: Second part of BEAT Contracts Lecture Processing Product (5 points (C)/10 points (Q))/Contracts Essay Question #2 Outline and Answer (5 points (C)/5 points (Q))

WEEK FIVE (February 18) – First Conference (sign up on TWEN) – NO CLASS THIS WEEK, but must attend conference. Failure to attend the conference will result in an unsatisfactory (U) grade for the course.

TO TURN IN on February 23rd: 2 Contracts Essay Questions (will be provided in class), Outlines and Answers (5 points (C)/10 points (Q))/Journal of Strategy for answering essay questions and reviewing answers (20 points (C))/Full schedule using BarBri organization as a guide (10 points (Q))

WEEK SIX (February 25) – Wrap up Essay and Memorization techniques/ Multistate Practice Test (MPT) – Strategies and Techniques

TO TURN IN on March 1st: MPT Outline and Answer (10 points (C)/10 points (Q))/Journal of Strategy for answering MPT questions and reviewing answers (20 points (C))

WEEK SEVEN (March 3) – MPT – Strategies and Techniques continued if necessary/BEAT Torts Lecture

TO TURN IN on March 8th: First part of BEAT Torts Lecture Processing Product (5 points (C)/10 points (Q))/Torts Essay Question #2, Outline and Answer (5 points (C)/10 points (Q))/MPT Outline and Product (5 points (C)/10 points (Q))

WEEK EIGHT (March 10) – MPT – Strategies and Techniques continued if necessary/Multiple Choice (MC) – Strategies and Techniques/ BEAT Torts Lecture continued

WEEK NINE (March 17) – SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

TO TURN IN on March 20th: MPT (1 MPT) Outline and Answer (10 points (Q)) – These will be distributed early in light of Spring Break /Contracts MC ## 4-6 and Torts MC ## 4-6 /Journal of Strategy for answering MC questions and reviewing answers (10 points (C)/ 10 points (Q))/Second Part of BEAT Torts Lecture Processing Product (5 points (C)/10 points (Q))

1 This syllabus and weekly schedule are subject to change. If there are any changes, a revised syllabus will be posted to TWEN and distributed in class.
WEEK TEN - (March 24) - Conferences (sign up on TWEN) – NO CLASS THIS WEEK, but must attend conference. Failure to attend the conference will result in an unsatisfactory (U) grade for the course.

TO TURN IN on (2 days after conference): Journal of Plan for Improvement (Essays, MPT and study schedule) based on conference discussion (20 points (C))

WEEK ELEVEN – (March 31) – Multiple Choice (MC) – Strategies and Techniques Continued if necessary/ BEAT Real Property Lecture

TO TURN IN on April 5th: Contracts MC ##12-14 and Real Property MC ## 4-6 (C))/ Journal of Strategy for answering MC questions and reviewing answers (10 points (C)/ 10 points (Q)).

WEEK TWELVE (April 7) – BEAT Real Property Lecture continued if necessary; Review study and test taking strategies; Discuss study environment and setting the atmosphere

TO TURN IN on April 12th: BEAT Real Property Lecture Processing Product (5 points (C)/15 points (Q))/ Real Property Essay Questions ## 1 & 2, Outlines and Answers (5 points (C)/10 points (Q)) / Torts, Real Property and Contracts MC / Journal of Strategy for answering MC questions and reviewing answers (10 points (C)/ 15 points (Q))

WEEK THIRTEEN (April 14) – Timed MPT SIMULATION IN CLASS (25 points (Q)); catch up; final assignments distributed

TO TURN IN on April 19th: (FINAL ASSIGNMENTS (Final journal entry, Final six week bar study schedule, ESSAYS, PROCESSING PRODUCTS) – (50 points (Q)) – must be turned in to be considered for a grade of satisfactory (S) for the course.

WEEK FOURTEEN (April 21) – Third and Final Conference (sign up on TWEN) – NO CLASS THIS WEEK, but must attend conference. Failure to attend the conference will result in an unsatisfactory (U) grade for the course.

WEEK FIFTEEN (April 28) – Timed ESSAY/ MULTIPLE CHOICE SIMULATION IN CLASS– 75 POINTS (Q) – must participate to be considered for a grade of satisfactory (S) or the course.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
<th>COMPLETION POINTS</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey/Questionnaire (in class)</td>
<td>January 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law school schedule</td>
<td>January 26</td>
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<td>Journal answers</td>
<td>January 26</td>
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<td>Two week bar schedule</td>
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<td>Most recent law school sample processing product</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal answers</td>
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<td>PANOPTO video quiz</td>
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<td>Second part of contracts Processing Product</td>
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<td>Contracts essay question #2 outline and answer</td>
<td>February 15</td>
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<td>2 contracts essay questions outlines and answers</td>
<td>February 23</td>
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<td>Journal answers</td>
<td>February 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full schedule using BarBri organization as a guide</td>
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<td>MPT outline and answer</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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<td>Journal answers</td>
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<td>First part torts processing product</td>
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<td>Torts essay question #2 outline and answer</td>
<td>March 8</td>
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<td>MPT outline and answer</td>
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<td>Second part torts processing product</td>
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<td>MPT outline and answer</td>
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<td>Journal answers (mc) (TORTS/CONTRACTS)</td>
<td>March 20</td>
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<td>Journal answers (plan for improvement)</td>
<td>Week of March 21 – two days after conference</td>
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<td>Journal answers (mc) CONTRACTS/REAL PROP/TORTS</td>
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<td>MPT SIMULATION</td>
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<td>Final assignments – Six week bar study schedule, Processing Products – must be turned in to be considered for grade of satisfactory (S) for the course</td>
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<td>ESSAY &amp; MC SIMULATION – must participate to be considered for a grade of satisfactory for the course</td>
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**TOTAL ALL POINTS – 545**