

## **Advanced Legal Analysis and Strategies**

Law 639-001 – Fall 2020

**Professor Rebecca L. Warren**

### **Meeting Times:**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM, Room 206 & Zoom

### **Office Hours:**

Virtual only, flexible times, email for appointment

### **Required Textbooks:**

1. Wanda Temm, CLEARING THE LAST HURDLE (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)
2. Steve Emanuel, Strategies and Tactics for the MBE (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)

**TWEN:** Please add the TWEN course entitled “**Advanced Legal Analysis and Strategies - Section 1.**” Assignments will go live weekly.

**Description of the Course:** Advanced Legal Analysis and Strategies (ALAS) is designed to improve the test-taking skills and study habits that will help you master the bar exam. We will be working through each major segment of the bar:

1. the essays (called “MEEs”);
2. the multiple choice questions (called “MBEs”); and
3. the performance tests (called “MPTs”).

Throughout much of the semester, you will be analyzing and writing practice MEEs, MBEs and/or MPTs nearly every week. We will be doing some of these assignments in class and reviewing model answers together. You will also be completing some of these assignments outside of class and getting input through self-grading, individual feedback and/or conferences with me.

ALAS is not a replacement for the commercial bar prep course you will use in the summer before your bar exam. Our goal here is not to teach you the substance of all the many areas of law you have to memorize for the bar; the commercial course will cover that. Rather, this class hones the skills necessary for success on the bar exam. We will likely use content from your first-year courses.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will:

- understand the major components of the bar exam;
- be able to write properly formatted and structured essays (MEEs) and MPTs under timed conditions;
- develop an effective strategy for answering MBE (multiple choice) questions;
- understand how to effectively and efficiently memorize the substantive law;
- appreciate the considerable amount of time and effort that goes into successful bar preparation, and develop a schedule for bar study that minimizes personal distractions and maximizes efficient study efforts; and
- be confident, efficient self-learners who can pass the bar on the first attempt.

**Grading:** This course is graded S/U (satisfactory/unsatisfactory), and **you must earn at least 385 of the possible 550 points (70%) in order to pass the course.** The course is designed to help you, not to frustrate you or punish you, and therefore as long as you put in a good-faith effort on all the tasks, you likely will pass. As the professor, I will have full discretion to determine whether you have satisfactorily completed each assignment. I may periodically require you to redo an assignment, complete a related task, or by take other steps I deem appropriate.

**Assignments:** For each week of classes, I will post the assignments on TWEN or D2L a few days ahead of time. The assignment for the first week is currently posted on TWEN under the “assignments” tab.

**Attendance:** Attending class either in-person or virtually is critically important since we will be practicing and reviewing various bar-type questions and materials in each session, and it is impossible to duplicate our in-class discussions after the fact. However, I understand that emergencies do come up, so you will be allowed three absences this semester. If you miss class four times or more, you will receive a grade of “unsatisfactory” for this course.

**Tardiness:** Please do not enter class late. At the professor’s discretion, tardiness

may be counted as an absence. With that said, however, you SHOULD still come to class, even if you will be late.

**Independent Work:** For assignments that you must hand in (such as practice essays), you must work independently since that will help build your skills for the bar. I am likely to assign one or more collaborative assignments during the semester, for which you are (obviously) encouraged to work collaboratively.

**Class Participation; Warning About Electronic Devices:** This is a small section, specifically designed to provide the individualized attention and focus needed to help you on the bar. You must fully engage in each class in order to learn the skills you need for the bar. As a general rule, you are not prohibited from using devices and I will sometimes announce that you should plan to have a device for certain sessions. However, you are expected to use your devices solely to engage in class activities and not for personal matters.

**Recording Policy:** As noted above, I strongly encourage you to attend all class sessions. If you know in advance that you need to miss a class, you may email me to ask for a recording of that session. You are prohibited from recording the class yourself in any manner, and doing so is a violation of the Honor Code.

**Days of No Class:** Occasionally we may not meet, and we will make up for any missed sessions with out-of-class exercises that will comply with ABA Standard 310, which specifies the amount of time students must spend on coursework both inside and outside the classroom to earn the two credit hours available in this course.

**Workload Expectations:** ABA Standard 310 expects that, for each credit hour, you will spend approximately three hours each week, including (a) our class time and (b) your work before and after class. This is a two credit course, meaning that each week you will be spending approximately six hours on this course altogether. Please keep that workload expectation in mind as we proceed through the semester.

**Meeting With Me Outside Class:** Feel free to email me at any time for a virtual or in-person appointment. For in-person meetings, we can meet in my office (Room 228) or a more open area, but masks and social distancing will be required.

## **Other Standard Policies:**

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:** *We ask that you become familiar with **Emergency Preparedness @ SIU**. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the Emergency Preparedness @ SIU website, and through text and email alerts. To register for alerts, visit: <http://emergency.siu.edu/>.*

**DISABILITY POLICY.** *SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. Disability Support Services coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval please contact DSS immediately at 618-453-5738 or [disabilityservices.siu.edu](http://disabilityservices.siu.edu). You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to insure accommodations are in place when needed. Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreements for each course to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations. Accommodation [request](#) and [renewal](#) forms can be found here: <https://law.siu.edu/academics/>.*

**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) 453-2461, or [siucares@siu.edu](mailto:siucares@siu.edu), <http://salukicare.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](mailto:judiray@siu.edu), and her phone number is 618- 453-3135.*

**COVID-19.** *As a condition of on-campus enrollment, all SIUC students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19, including the requirement that all students wear a mask in campus buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, and studios when others are present, regardless of social distancing. Students are expected to follow physical or social distancing guidelines by keeping at least 6 feet from others, and practicing good hand hygiene. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. SIUC will follow federal, state and county public health recommendations and mandates in all decisions relating to university operation. Students should regularly review the link for the [SIUC COVID-19 response](#).*