

MASTERING LEGAL EDUCATION § 2, 2020-2021

INSTRUCTOR: REBECCA L. WARREN

E-MAIL: RLWARREN@SIU.EDU

PHONE: (618) 453-8741

OFFICE LOCATION: Room 228 (office) or Room 224 (resource room)

OFFICE HOURS: Flexible, by appointment (submit request via email)

REQUIRED TEXT: None for Fall 2020, TBA for Spring 2021

MEETING TIMES: **WEDNESDAYS FROM 1:15-2:15pm in ROOM 120 (Auditorium)** (See tentative schedule below—we will meet in person as a class for SEVEN (7) sessions, which are highlighted in yellow, and will meet for TWO (2) individual conferences, as highlighted in pink.)

Welcome! As part of the Academic Success Program (ASP), this class focuses on skills that are critical to your success in law school. In particular, we will begin by working on (1) case preparation, including reading and briefing cases; (2) synthesizing, summarizing, and creating a framework for course material (“outlining”); (3) building legal analysis skills and demonstrating rule application via written essays and multiple choice questions; (4) improving your time management; and (5) becoming a skillful self-regulated learner. A tentative schedule for the fall semester is included at the end of this syllabus.

The main goals of the ASP are to help you succeed in your law school classes and develop skills and knowledge that will enable you to confidently pass the bar and become an effective lawyer.

The ASP is comprised of two primary faculty members: Professor Stan Cox, Director, and myself, Rebecca Warren, Assistant Director and Academic Success Specialist. The Program also relies on assistance from other staff as needed. While I will be primarily responsible for guiding the course for Section 2, other members of the Program will be available to assist you and will likely participate in class activities from time to time.

PART 1: COURSE POLICIES

You must add the course TWEN page entitled “Mastering Legal Education – Section 2.” I will send all announcements through the TWEN course, so be sure you are regularly checking the email you used to register with TWEN.

The Mastery class is graded on an S/U basis and shares its transcript credit with the Professionalism course. If you do not satisfy the requirements for both the Professionalism course and the Mastery course you will receive a U for the combined course and not receive the transcript credit. For the Mastery part of the credit you must demonstrate that you are putting forth a good-faith effort to build and master the foundational skills listed herein to earn a Satisfactory grade. I will work with you as needed throughout the year on each skill to help you develop mastery. YOU MUST TIMELY SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS AND RE-WRITES, ATTEND CLASS, AND PARTICIPATE IN ALL REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THIS COURSE. This course serves to improve your skills to as high a level as you would like to take them—put in the effort and you may be surprised at what you can accomplish!

Regular attendance is part of successful completion of this course. You are only allowed ONE (1) absence. You are strongly discouraged from missing any class sessions. Tardiness may also count as an absence if you are more than five minutes late for class. We will meet SEVEN (7) times during the fall semester (TBA for Spring). You may elect to attend via Zoom even if class is being held in person (please notify me in advance), and there may be sessions for which the entire class is held remotely. This will be announced in advance via the email address you entered in TWEN. Class sessions are not recorded. You are prohibited from recording the class yourself in any manner: doing so is a violation of the Honor Code. **You must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth while attending in-person classes.** I will do the same. The university's COVID directives require this. If you forget to bring a mask, you may request one from the Administration Suite.

I expect you to use your laptop and other devices responsibly. Several studies have documented a harmful effect on student learning when devices are used during class. To mitigate this, I ask you to display ONLY the screens that are relevant to the work we are doing in class. There may be times I ask in-person learners to close devices completely during live sessions.

Workload Expectations: Article IV, Section 13 of the SIU School of Law Rules, in accordance with the American Bar Association Standard 310, sets forth the amount of work expected for each credit hour. Because we share a credit with the Professionalism course, you can expect the workload of ½ of a credit hour for this course (1/2 of 42.5 hours for the year = 21.25 hours (approx. 10.5 hours per semester). With that said, assignments in the Mastery course are tailored to complement your doctrinal courses, are rooted in doctrinal material, and represent a task that will benefit your mastery of doctrinal material regardless of whether they were explicitly assigned in the doctrinal course. There are a few requirements for the Mastery class that take you beyond the workload expectations established for your doctrinal courses, including time-management plans, exam reflections, and individual conferences.

Individual Conferences: Two Individual meetings are required. You will sign up for a time using the TWEN sign-up sheet. We will meet via Zoom unless you request otherwise. You are ALWAYS welcome to schedule additional conferences, which is highly desirable.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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. 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, <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, 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](#).

PART 2: SKILL DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

To build the skills outlined in the “Welcome” paragraphs on page 1, we will engage in the following activities:

1. Class Preparation/Reading/Briefing:

During the first weeks of classes I will identify reading assignments from your doctrinal courses for which you will submit your preparation notes/summaries (including case briefs). You are required to submit two summaries for two different course assignments (specific assignments and due dates TBA). These reading notes/preparation summaries must be submitted *prior* to the content being discussed in the doctrinal class.

Your goal is to create a summary that would allow you to teach the material as if you were conducting the class, or at least so you could use that material for exam purposes. That is the standard against which I will be giving you feedback on your pre-class summary. It is a high standard, and it is designed to capture more than just a traditional case brief. The skill you are working to develop is *full class preparation*, with you working to teach yourself as much as possible *before* class what is to be covered in class. This allows you to use class time primarily to self-assess how well you understood the material (and correct your understandings) rather than wait for class to be your first meaningful learning of the material.

In the doctrinal class for which you submitted the preparation summary, you should take notes in class as usual and use what occurred in class (plus any feedback from me on your pre-class summary) to improve it. **If required, you will need to submit both the pre-class and the revised version to get credit for the assignment.**

2. Synthesizing/Outlining:

After we have worked through and discussed outlining/synthesizing exercises, you will submit portions of two in-process outlines (or mind-maps, charts, flowcharts, etc.), from eligible units assigned, for review. Coordinating with your doctrinal professor, I will evaluate and make suggestions for improvement. I may ask you to revise and resubmit or to submit a portion of an outline for a different course or part of a course as we work together to build this synthesizing skill. **You are required to submit acceptable portions of outlines for two different courses.**

3. Rule application and legal analysis:

You cannot score well on law school exams or bar questions unless you are able to apply rules to facts and analyze legal problems. We will have several required Mastery class exercises to provide a foundation for this skill, and then you will practice writing IRAC or CiRAC-style essays and answering multiple choice questions to develop competence and mastery. **You must submit at least two practice essays for review and feedback, revising and resubmitting if requested, in order to receive credit for this requirement.**

4. Time management:

With this skill, you will be able to look ahead and meet deadlines with less stress, even when there are multiple projects with deadlines that overlap. That is the life of most lawyers, so this skill is not only important for your success as a law student but is also vital to your future success as a lawyer. **You will be required to submit, very early in each semester, a micro and macro study plan that includes short-term and long-term goals. I will ask you to review and revise your plans as needed during the fall semester.** Through this process, you will develop the ability to accurately gauge and predict what you need to do and when you need to do it. We will discuss time management during individual conferences.

5. Self-regulated learning:

In addition to the above skills, or related to them, **you will be required to complete several self-reflection exercises and a mid-term review exercise.** Your goal is to become an ever more skillful self-regulated learner who is constantly using feedback to accurately self-assess how well you know material, how well you can demonstrate that knowledge in exams or graded exercises for your courses (and later for the bar exam), and what you need to do to short term and long-term to improve your knowledge and your skills.

PART 3: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR FALL SEMESTER

WEEK/DAY	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE (prior to class, in TWEN)
Week 1 – Aug. 19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading & Briefing Cases 2. Note-taking 3. Time Management Reminders 4. Attitudes for success 	First eligible pre-class notes and due dates announced (to be uploaded <i>before</i> doctrinal class for which the reading was assigned)
Week 2 – Aug. 26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rule Synthesis & Outlining 2. Study Strategies for Long-term Retention 	Bring up-to-date notes for TORTS; Second assigned brief due dates announced
Week 3 – Sept. 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outlining Exercise 2. Issue Spotting + Rule Statement (hypo) 	Bring up-to-date notes for named course(s); Upload outline for named course(s) by FRIDAY 9/4
Week 4	NO CLASS THIS WEEK (Labor Day) Individual Conferences (sign-up sheet via TWEN)	Upload your reflection exercise to TWEN 24hrs PRIOR to the meeting – Bring micro schedule

Week 5	NO CLASS THIS WEEK Individual Conferences (sign-up sheet via TWEN)	Upload your reflection exercise to TWEN 24hrs PRIOR to the meeting – Bring micro schedule
Week 6 – Sept. 21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IRAC-style Analysis 2. Application of Rule to Facts 3. Self-assessing 	Upload written answer for hypo posted before start of class
Week 7 – Sept. 28	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing for Exams 2. Practice Essay Problem 3. Multiple choice strategies 	Essay answer uploaded to TWEN before start of class
Week 8	NO CLASS THIS WEEK	Mid-Term Exams
Week 9 – Oct. 14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exam Review 2. Revising study plans 	Reflection exercise due before class; bring current study plan
Week 10 – Oct. 21	NO CLASS 2 nd Individual Conferences begin- Early conference required for those who struggled on mid-terms	Schedule Individual Conference via TWEN sign up sheet – bring revised micro and macro schedule to conference
Week 11 – Oct. 28	OPTIONAL SIMULATED EXAM EXPERIENCE	Exam review exercise due. Individual conferences continue
Week 12 – Nov. 4	Practice Essays Multiple Choice Questions	MC questions exercise Practice essay questions Individual conferences continue
Week 13 – Nov. 11	VETERAN'S DAY WEEK (NO CLASS)	2 nd Individual Conferences concluded this week
Week 14 – Nov. 18	OPTIONAL SIMULATED EXAM EXPERIENCE	
Week 15	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASSES)	
Weeks 16-17	FINAL EXAMS DEC. 1 – DEC. 11	