

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL**

**Advanced Legal Methods
Section 001
Fall 2024**

Professor Anna M. Vick

Contact:

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Lesar Law Building Room 226

618-751-4644

Office hours:

Monday and Wednesday (by appointment)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Walk-in)

Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Walk-in) and 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (by appointment)

The above are my dedicated office hours, feel free to stop in anytime my door is open.

Welcome! The primary goal of Advanced Legal Methods is to strengthen your legal problem-solving abilities. The course focuses on fundamental lawyering skills such as reading comprehension, rule mastery, issue spotting, outlining, the mechanics of legal analysis and strong writing. Throughout the course, you will have multiple opportunities for hands-on practice with focused drills, group exercises, and assignments to sharpen these skills. The course enhances learning by providing you with various forms of feedback to learn how to evaluate your work and see a clear pathway for consistent improvement. The course connects learning activities to law practice and, more immediately, to law school and bar exam success.

Course Objectives. You will improve your ability to:

- Think, act and communicate like a lawyer.
- Identify legal issues in beginner and more advanced legal problems and devise effective strategies for solving those problems.
- Comprehend and analyze case, statutory, and other appropriate primary and secondary legal authorities.
- Synthesize law from case, statutory, and other appropriate primary and secondary authority.
- Apply critical thinking skills to legal authorities and their application to facts to solve legal problems.
- Communicate legal reasoning and solutions to legal problems effectively in objective writing.
- Nurture a developing sense of professional identity in the context of simulated client representation.
- Appreciate how the cultural backgrounds or attributes of the course clients or witnesses may be valuable or integral to an attorney's representation.

- Employ productive academic and professional behaviors to succeed in law school and law practice.
- Students will be able to effectively employ strategies of active listening, empathy and effective allyship during classroom discussions and group work.

Books and Materials.

- Kris Franklin, *Legal Reasoning Case Files* (2nd Ed.)
- Materials found on D2L

Attendance. All school policies related to attendance and tardiness are in effect. Missing announcements, assignments, or in-class activities due to absence or tardiness may result in a loss of points. Otherwise, attendance is mandatory for all scheduled class meetings and other scheduled course activities. You are allowed a maximum of four (4) absences in Advanced Legal Methods.

Grading. You will receive a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade in this course. To receive a satisfactory grade in this course you must earn a minimum of 65 pts (65%). Points in this course are determined as noted on “Assignment Chart”.

American Bar Association (ABA) Standard 310. Under the ABA Standards for accrediting law schools, a credit hour is, “an amount of work that reasonably approximates 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.”

For a two-credit course such as Advanced Legal Methods, the Standard means a student must attend at least **one hundred (100) minutes** of class each week (one classroom hour = fifty (50) minutes). The ABA also requires that students in a two-credit course spend **at least four hours** on out-of-class work. Note that these are minimum requirements.

Law School Honor Code and University Code of Conduct. Both the Honor Code and the Code of Conduct apply and are in effect in this class. **Read both documents carefully and make sure you comply with both at all times. Submitting plagiarized work or any other form of work not your own, regardless of a student’s purpose or intent, is potentially subject to serious sanctions as are other academic, honor code, and conduct code offenses.** Do not consult others on the final work product you turn in. If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code, Code of Conduct or either’s application, consult me. Generally, you may discuss assignments with other students, but you may not turn in work that is not your own. The written product must be your own; you may not copy another student’s work or AI generated work and hand it in as your own.

Assignment Chart

Due Date	Assignment	Pts.
September 1, 2024 By 11:59 p.m.	Outlining Schedule	1
September 1, 2024 by 11:59 p.m.	Practice Schedule	1
September 3, 2024	Individual Meeting #1	3
September 5, 2024 by 1:00 p.m.	Case Briefs/Notes for Client File A	4
September 12, 2024 by 1:00 p.m.	Outline of Law for Client File A	2
September 17, 2024 by 1:00 p.m.	Draft of Client Letter	2
September 19, 2024, by 1:00 p.m.	Final Client Letter	4
September 22, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.	Current Constitutional Law Outline	3
September 29, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.	Constitutional Law Essay #1	4
October 1, 2024, by 1:00 p.m.	Essay A	6
October 10, 2024	Oral Quiz for Client File B	6
October 10, 2024	Outline for Client File B	2
October 15, 2024 by 1:00 p.m.	Bench Memo	5
October 17, 2024, by 3:00 p.m.	Essay B	6
October 20, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.	Current Constitutional Law Outline	3
October 29, 2024, by 1:00 p.m.	Constitutional Law Question Set #1	4
October 31, 2024	Individual Meeting #2	3
October 31, 2024, by 1:00 p.m.	Constitutional Law Question Set #2	4
October 31, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.	Constitutional Law Essay #2	4
November 5, 2024, by 4:00 p.m.	Constitutional Law Question Set #3	4
November 5, 2024, by 4:00 p.m.	Constitutional Law Essay #3	4
November 12 and November 14	Constitutional Law Presentations	6
November 19, 2024, by 1:00 p.m.	Constitutional Law Essay #4	4
November 19, 2024, by 3:00 p.m.	Self-Assessment of Constitutional Law Essay #4	4
November 21, 2024, by 1:00 p.m.	Constitutional Law Essay #5	4
November 21, 2024, by 3:00 p.m.	Self-Assessment of Constitutional Law Essay #5	4
November 24, 2024, by 11:59 p.m.	Constitutional Law Outline	3

Class Schedule

Date and Topic	Readings	Assignments and Class Objectives
Tuesday, August 20, 2024 Course Overview and Reset Part One	Syllabus D2L Modules	Sign up for an individual meeting with Professor Vick between 8/20 and 9/3.
Thursday, August 22, 2024 Reset Part Two: Reading and Note-taking	D2L Modules	Sign up for an individual meeting with Professor Vick between 8/20 and 9/3. We will discuss effective reading strategies for class preparation and note-taking tips for class performance.
Tuesday, August 27, 2024 Reset Part Three: Outlining	D2L Modules	Sign up for an Individual Meeting with Professor Vick between 8/20 and 9/3. We will discuss the importance of outlining right from the start. We will explore different outlining methods and students will determine which possible outlining schemes may work best for them.
Thursday, August 29, 2024 Reset Part Four: Practice	D2L Module	Sign up for an Individual meeting with Professor Vick between 8/20 and 9/3. We will discuss the importance of “practicing” and how to find or create practice resources.
	Read pages 1-9 in the textbook.	Submit “Outlining Schedule” and “Practice

<p>Tuesday, September 3, 2024 Case File #1</p>		<p>Schedule” via D2L by Sunday, September 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.</p> <p>We will discuss the initial information found in the case file and begin to solve our client’s problem.</p>
<p>Thursday, September 5, 2024 Case File #1: The Law</p>	<p>Read pages 10-27 in the textbook.</p>	<p>Submit briefs/case-notes for all cases in the reading via D2L by Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>We will discuss the cases and relevant law for Case File #1.</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 10, 2024 Case File#1: The Law</p>	<p>Review your notes from the previous class.</p>	<p>We will discuss outlining in the context of our cases file.</p>
<p>Thursday, September 12, 2024 Case File #1: The Assignment</p>	<p>Review pages 1-27 in the textbook.</p>	<p>Submit an outline of the law for “Case File #1” via D2L by Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>We will discuss how to use an outline of the law to solve our client’s problem.</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 17, 2024 The First Draft</p>	<p>No additional readings.</p>	<p>Submit a draft of the “Client Letter” via D2L by Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Students will share letter excerpts in class.</p>
<p>Thursday, September 19, 2024 The Final Draft and Reflection</p>	<p>No additional readings</p>	<p>Submit the final “Client Letter” via D2L by Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p>

		<p>Submit current version of Constitutional Law Outline via D2L by Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 11:59 p.m</p> <p>Students will receive a sample letter to critique and compare to their own.</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 24, 2024 Reading an Essay Question</p>	<p>Read the sample essay question in the text for Case File #1</p>	<p>We will discuss the art and science of reading an essay question.</p>
<p>Thursday, September 26, 2024 Answering an Essay Question</p>	<p>Read the sample answer to the essay question in Case File #1</p>	<p>Submit Constitutional Law Essay #1 via D2L by Sunday, September 29, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.</p> <p>We will discuss how to assess an essay answer.</p>
<p>Tuesday, October 1, 2024 Essay #1</p>		<p>Submit an answer to “Essay A” via D2L by Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>We will discuss the answer to the first essay question and practice self-grading.</p>
<p>Thursday, October 3, 2024 Multiple Choice Strategies</p>	<p>D2L Module (Case)</p>	<p>We will discuss strategies for improving in multiple choice and how to craft your own essay and multiple choice questions.</p>
<p>Tuesday, October 8, 2024 Case File #2</p>	<p>Read Case File #1 Pages *** in the textbook.</p>	<p>Schedule a time for your oral quiz with Professor Vick prior to 10/11/24.</p> <p>Students will complete a practice oral quiz in preparation for the graded quiz.</p>

Thursday, October 10, 2024 Case File #2		Submit a copy of your outline for Case File #2 via D2L prior to your oral quiz.
Tuesday, October 15, 2024 Anticipating Exam Questions	Read the remainder of the chapter in the textbook.	Submit the “Bench Memo” via D2L by Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. We will discuss how to anticipate possible exam questions.
Thursday, October 17, 2024 No Class		Submit “Essay B” via D2L by Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Submit the newest version of your Constitutional Law Outline via D2L by Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.
Tuesday, October 22, 2024 Outlining for Constitutional Law	Review your Constitutional Law Outline	Sign up for Individual Meeting #2 with Professor Vick between 10/22 and 10/31. We will discuss the current state of your Constitutional Law outlines and where they need to go at this point in the semester. We will also discuss the Constitutional Law Presentation Assignment and set a deadline for the submission of those topics and materials.
Thursday, October 24, 2024 Outlining for Constitutional Law	Continue Reviewing and Fine Tuning Outline	We will workshop your Constitutional Law outlines by sharing them with the class.
Tuesday, October 29, 2024 Multiple Choice Practice	TBA	Complete Question Set #1 on D2L by Tuesday,

		<p>October 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>We will go over the answers to the question set and discuss the ways in which you can improve and continue learning from multiple choice.</p>
<p>Thursday, October 31, 2024 Multiple Choice Practice</p>	TBA	<p>Complete Question Set #2 on D2L by Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Submit Constitutional Law Essay #2 via D2L by Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.</p> <p>We will discuss how multiple choice practice set can be used to improve your outlines and your essay writing.</p>
<p>Tuesday, November 5, 2024 Election Day—NO CLASS</p>		<p>Complete Question Set #3 and Constitutional Law Essay #3 via D2L by Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Thursday, November 7, 2024 Grade and Reflection on Question Sets</p>	TBA	<p>We will grade and review Question Set #3 and Essay #3.</p>
<p>Tuesday, November 12, 2024 Constitutional Law Presentations</p>	Readings to be assigned by your peers.	<p>Submit your presentation materials via D2L by Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Thursday, November 14, 2024 Constitutional Law Presentations</p>	Readings to be assigned by your peers.	<p>Submit your presentation materials via D2L by Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p>

<p>Tuesday, November 19, 2024 and Thursday, November 21, 2024</p> <p><i>Out of Class Assignments</i></p>		<p>Submit Essay #4 via D2L by Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Submit Self-assessment of Essay #4 via D2L by Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Submit Essay #5 via D2L by Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Submit Self-assessment of Essay #5 via D2L by Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Tuesday, November 26, 2024 and Thursday, November 28, 2024</p> <p>No Class</p>	<p><i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i></p>	