

Advanced Legal Analysis and Strategies
Law 639 – Section 3
Spring 2020

Professor Rebecca L. Warren

Meeting Times:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM, Room 164

Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3 PM to 4 PM, Room 228 (my office)

Required Textbooks:

1. Wanda Temm, CLEARING THE LAST HURDLE (2nd ed.)
2. Steve Emanuel, Strategies and Tactics for the MBE (6th ed.)

TWEN: You should add the TWEN course entitled “**Advanced Legal Analysis and Strategies - Section 3**” as soon as possible. We will use TWEN extensively.

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.

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 compensate for an unsatisfactory assignment by redoing it, by completing a related task, or by taking other steps I deem appropriate.

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

Attendance: Attending class is critically important since we will be practicing and reviewing various bar-type questions and materials in each session, and it is very difficult to duplicate our in-class work 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: Do not arrive late to class. If you enter class after I begin, you should not sign the attendance sheet. With that said, however, you SHOULD still come to class, even if you will be late and counted as absent.

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. However, we will be doing several group exercises in class, and I would encourage you to work collaboratively at those times.

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 will not need any devices during class time, and therefore I do not expect to see them out during class. I will announce when/if you should plan to have a device with you.

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 drop by my office (Room 228) whenever my door is open. If you want to make sure I am available, it is best to email ahead of time to request an appointment. (rlwarren@siu.edu).

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, Department of Safety's website www.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 emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will assist your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Disability Support: Disability Support Services (DSS) 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. See: <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://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.