

SYLLABUS
ADVANCED LEGAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIES
LAW 639 (all sections)
SPRING 2023

Class times: (all sections in Room 103)

Section 1 Monday in person, 1:30-2:45, Wednesday online

Section 2 Tuesday in person 1:30-2:45, Thursday online

Section 3 Tuesday in person 3:00-4:15, Thursday online

This class will be taught as a hybrid (attending the first class session each week in person, and then the second through completing online materials). Additionally, there will be three required individual conferences (noted on the weekly schedule).

Recommended text:

Wanda M. Temm, *Clearing the Last Hurdle: Mapping Success on the Bar Exam* (Wolters Kluwer, 2021). ISBN 9781543807431

Additional materials for some assignments will be distributed in class or TWEN, as well as supplemental readings, hand-outs, and review packets.

Learning objectives:

Cognitive: students will have a firm understanding of the major components of bar examinations, including how to successfully plan and organize answers, structure study time, and assess their independent strengths, as well as areas of challenge, to use in developing a plan for passing state bar exams;

Affective: students will appreciate the importance of minimizing personal distractions and completing the commercial preparation course materials during the eight week exam preparation period, and develop a plan of study that will result in passage on the first attempt;

Psychomotor: students will be able to compose properly formatted and structured essays and MPT's under loosely timed conditions after practicing and reviewing essay and MPT questions and answers; and

Professional: students will reflect on why they came to law school, reaffirming their purpose in practicing law and continue developing their own professional identity.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for the first class session each week, as well as three individual conferences. Each student is allowed two absences, as it will be difficult to keep pace in the course without attending the weekly scheduled class meetings. If you need to miss class for any reason, please stop by my office to go over the content you missed in class. Please note that if you miss a class, it is often impossible to duplicate the group work and other exercises that take place during class, and that will assist your ability to pass a bar examination on the first attempt.

Assignments:

You will be writing essays and MPTs, as well as taking multiple-choice questions, similar to the MBE exam. We will be doing some of these assignments in class, and reviewing model answers, and you will also be completing some of these assignments outside of class, and getting input through individual conferences. For readings assigned in the *Clearing the Last Hurdle* textbook, you do not need to prepare any exercises found in that text. Written assignments are specified separately below.

Big picture details:

January: Planning to pass the bar exam on the first attempt, clearing the decks

February: MPTs

March: Essays and memorizing

April: Multiple-choice questions (MBE) and stress management

Grading and minimum requirements:

This is a pass/fail course, but you must pass every assignment in order to pass the course. Your professor will have full discretion to determine whether you have satisfactorily completed each assessed assignment or need to re-do it. If you find yourself confused or uncertain as you work on the assignments, make talking to your professor a matter of urgency.

This course is a two credit hour course. The American Bar Association standards require you to spend at least six hours of your time each week on the course. The in person classroom component is scheduled for one hour and fifteen minutes each week, so you will spend approximately four and a half hours outside of class sessions reading and preparing, doing all online assignments and exercises with weekly submissions, and attending individual conferences.

Working together:

Feel free to discuss the topics raised in class with your peers, and studying in pairs or groups for this course is encouraged. There will be a process-oriented, scaffolded approach to skill building such that each skill will launch in class in groups, followed by paired work on the skill, which concludes with the individual/independent phase. The only exception to working together is the independent practice phase will only be beneficial as learning exercises if they are done independently. Any copying of written assignments from a classmate for the independent practice phase would violate the law school's honor code. If you have questions about this, please see your professor.

Class participation:

This is a small section, specifically designed to provide the individualized attention and focus needed to help you in your bar passage journey. It will be difficult to do your best and learn the skills you need for the bar preparation period if time during class is spent in electronic grazing. Full participation in class, including the group exercises, will be key to doing well.

Recording:

Class sessions will not be recorded. Students may not record the class session without the professor's permission. If you need a recording of a class session due to some exceptional circumstance, please see your professor for permission.

Accommodations and assistance:

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 ensure 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 use the DSS Student Portal to notify their faculty members and the School of Law Registrar's Office of their accommodations.

Emergency procedures:

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

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, emotion, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students, and their families, SIUC 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, <https://salukicare.siu.edu/index.php>. 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:

SIUC'S policy on face masks and social distancing is consistent with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Illinois Department of Public Health. For up-to-date information, students, faculty, and staff should visit SIUC's COVID website (siu.edu/coronavirus), which includes the Saluki Safety Plan. People can also send an email to pandemicinfo@siu.edu.

Safety awareness facts and education:

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://safe.siu.edu>

Class schedule:

Week 1

MLK Jan. 16- school holiday closure (Monday section must attend one of the Tuesday class sessions as a make up)

Jan. 17 in person class topic: Beginnings and Clearing the Deck

Prepare for class: Read p. 1-10; 97-100

Jan. 18-19 online exercise: complete and submit Clear the Decks Inventory

Week 2

Jan. 23-24 in person class topic: Having a Plan

Prepare for class: Read p. 21-32

Jan. 25-26 online exercise: complete and submit Bar Scavenger exercise

Week 3

Jan. 30-Feb. 2 M-Th individual clearing the deck conferences

Feb. 1-2 Online reading: Review MPT primer materials

Week 4

Feb. 6-7 In person class topic: MPTs: What are they Testing and General Tips

Prepare for class: Read p. 51-78

Feb. 8-9 online reading: review sample MPT file, library, model answer

Week 5

Feb. 13-14 In person class topic: Writing MPT's (in class simulation, beginning MPT #1 in pairs)

Feb. 15-16 group work exercise: MPT #1 finish in pairs and submit

Week 6

Feb. 20-21 In person class topic: Writing MPTs (in class simulation, beginning MPT#2 in pairs)

Feb. 22-23 group work exercise: MPT #2 finish in pairs and submit

Week 7

Feb. 27-28 MPT: In class simulation on MPT#3 under timed conditions and submit

March 1-2 online exercise: MPT #3 compare your answer to the model, complete reflection exercise and submit

Week 8

March 6-9- conferences on MPT #3

Week 9

SPRING BREAK- MARCH 13-17

Week 10

March 20-21 In person class topic: Law School Exams v. Bar Essays

Prepare for class: Read p. 33-50

March 22-23 online exercise: Brief summary of how bar exam questions and answers differ from law school exams and submit

Week 11

March 27-28 In person class topic: Writing Essays (in class)

Prepare for class: Reread p. 33-50

March 29-30 online exercise: paired essay exercise and submit Essay #1 for review

Week 12

April 3-4 In person class topic: Memorizing: What and How

Prepare for class: Read p. 11-20

April 5-6 online exercise: One page summary of what memorization techniques you have used in the past, how useful those strategies were, and what new techniques you will try in the bar preparation period, complete and submit essay #2 independent work

Week 13

April 10-13 Individual conferences on essay # 2

April 12-13 online exercise: Review material in preparation for MBE session in next week's class

Week 14

April 17-18 In person class topic: MBE: General tips and strategies, autopsy technique

Prepare for class: Read p. 79-86

April 19-20 online exercise: submit autopsy results and generate questions for alums

Week 15

April 24-25 In person class topic: Building Confidence and Final Thoughts (Q and A with alums)

Prepare for class: Read p. 87-95

April 26-27 online exercise: peruse SIU Wellness resources (in particular sleep, resilience, and stress) and write a one page summary of what resources you found helpful