

Contact Info

Prof. Andrea Cooks

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Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, before and after class, 2:00pm to 6:00pm, or [by appointment](#) (in person or Teams).

Class Meetings

Monday and Wednesday: 3:00-4:00 pm LSAR 204

NOTICE: Legal Writing and Legal Research classes will be combined and connected for certain sessions and projects. Certain weeks will be dedicated to one subject or the other. Legal Research weeks may be in a different classroom. Check the syllabi for both courses.

Administrative Assistant

Katie Rumsey: Room 232 Katie.rumsey@siu.edu

Course Description, Overview & Learning Outcomes

Welcome to LW part II! This course continues to build foundational elements of legal writing and moves into more advanced writing assignments. This semester we shift from objective assessments to persuasive arguments. You will build on skills learned in the fall and apply them to new statutory and case law. You will advocate for your client in negotiations and in fake court settings, and you get to write persuasive legal documents.

Your performance in this course is based on written assignments, worksheets, online modules, class participation, and oral advocacy. The workload for this course typically involves about four hours of preparation outside of class every week, along with more extensive time for larger writing assignments.

This course complies with the School of Law's Credit Hour Policy and will require **at least 42.5 hours of total work per credit.**

The syllabus is likely to change as the semester progresses depending on the speed at which we move through content. Please check D2L to make sure you have the most updated syllabus. If there are any changes to the syllabus, they will be announced.

Assigned Materials

- Required Texts
 - o R. Neumann, Jr., S. Simon, S. Painter-Thorne, *Legal Writing*, 5th Ed.
 - o *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st Edition)
- Required Technology
 - o Mastering the Bluebook Interactive Exercises Subscription [Mastering The Bluebook Interactive Exercises 2024-25 Edition : Login](#)
 - o D2L page for assignments, announcements, and more

****LAPTOP BAN POLICY****

To encourage comprehensive listening and avoid digital distractions, **laptops and other digital devices will not be allowed** in the class unless an in-class activity is assigned that requires a digital device. You must leave your digital devices in your bags unless an activity is taking place.

Students needing accommodations should contact me ASAP.

Grading:

Request or response to discovery request – fast and easy	5 points
Jury instructions – fast and easy	5 points
Mastering the Bluebook – complete all modules on time	5 points
Memo supporting or opposing trial motion	25 points
Trial motion argument	5 points
Appellate brief	50 points
Appellate argument	5 points

This course is required to adhere to the mandatory first year grade distribution (i.e. the 1L curve). *Note: I have seen grade lines forced to be drawn by 1/2 point, so remember each point counts.*

Assignments

There will be a variety of assignments during the semester: reading assignments, in-class group and individual assignments, citation exercises, and a written memorandum and brief. All written assignments must be submitted on D2L as a Microsoft word document on the due date.

Assignment Due Dates & Late Policy

Just as in the court, due dates and times are firm and are strictly enforced. All assignments are to be turned in by the time listed in the syllabus or the assignment. Extensions will be given only for extreme circumstances that are beyond your control. If you are absent on a day of an in-class assignment, you are still responsible for that assignment but can request an extension.

If any assignment is late without an approved extension, three points will be deducted for that assignment at the moment it is late. If the assignment is submitted handed in more than an hour past the deadline, three additional points will be deducted and then another three for each twenty four hours thereafter.

Attendance, Participation, & Professionalism

As future attorneys, you are expected to maintain professionalism throughout your personal and professional lives. I expect the same in class. If a student is not prepared to discuss assigned materials when called upon or fails to actively participate in class activities, the student will be marked absent for that class, and the student's grade may be lowered.

Students may have no more than a maximum of four absences (partial or total) for any reason. For each absence over four, I will deduct three tenths of a point from your final grade on a 4.0 scale. The attendance requirement is not subject to modification by a professor, nor may a professor excuse an absence. If the absences allowed under this provision have been exhausted, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant leave and relief from the regular attendance requirement in extraordinary circumstances, including but not limited to: (1) military service; (2) representing the law school at a moot court, mock trial, law review, or official function; (3) jury duty; (4) religious observances; (5) the birth of a child; (6) the death of an immediate family member to include grandparents; (7) major non-elective surgery or a

prolonged hospital stay; or (8) to comply with federal or state anti-discrimination laws, other applicable laws, or SIU policies.

Recording Policy

All classes will be recorded and posted on D2L. The quality of the recordings is low, so if you are going to be absent, have a friend take notes for you. **All other recordings of the class are prohibited and a violation of the school's honor code.**

General Guidelines & Collaboration Policy

You must do your own work on the assignments. Do not copy anyone's answers, use any artificial intelligence, or share your work with others. Copying answers or ideas violates the Honor Code. These can be tricky questions, so if you have any doubts, ask me. Here are a few guidelines:

A. Plagiarism – huge danger

Plagiarism is using another's work and submitting that work as your own. This includes copying work by other students, using language and ideas from other sources without citation, including artificial intelligence, treatises, and cases.

B. Dishonest Citation – just about as bad

Dishonest citation includes citing a source that does not support the proposition asserted. It also includes altering or omitting language in a quotation without indicating the alteration or omission. If you quote, you must quote exactly or indicate alterations and omissions. Quoting a commercial summary or research aid as if it is the underlying source is also dishonest citation.

C. “Talk” collaboration – this one can be ok in some circumstances

You may talk with our teaching assistants and me about assignments, and it is also permissible to discuss ideas or questions about assignments with other students. In-class group work will involve lots of talking with your colleagues. But don't write together, edit each other's work, or read any work before that assignment has been turned in or before your work has been turned in.

Don't be like these lawyers:

Springfield Attorney Fined for Using AI, Citing ‘non-existent’ Cases (Aug. 1, 2025)

<https://www.wcia.com/news/sangamon-county/springfield-attorney-fined-for-using-ai-citing-nonexistent-cases/>

Sara Merken, *Lawyer who used flawed AI case citations says sanctions unwarranted in whistleblower case*, Reutgers (Aug. 27. 2024) <https://www.reuters.com/legal/transactional/lawyer-who-used-flawed-ai-case-citations-says-sanctions-unwarranted-2024-08-27/>

Sam Skolnik, *Lawyer Sanctioned Over AI-Hallucinated Case Cites, Quotations*, Bloomberg Law (Nov. 26, 2024) <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/litigation/lawyer-sanctioned-over-ai-hallucinated-case-cites-quotations>

John Russel, *Sanctions ordered for lawyers who relied on ChatGPT artificial intelligence to prepare court brief*, Courthouse News Service (June 22, 2023) <https://www.courthousenews.com/sanctions-ordered-for-lawyers-who-relied-on-chatgpt-artificial-intelligence-to-prepare-court-brief/>

Golriz Chrostowski, *ANALYSIS: Sanctions for Fake Generative AI Cites Harm Clients*, Bloomberg Law (April 3, 2024) <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/bloomberg-law-analysis/analysis-sanctions-for-fake-generative-ai-cites-harm-clients> (“... attorneys should be very careful with their use of generative AI. One misstep may mean a call to their malpractice insurer.”).

D2L & MBIE

Assignments, announcements, and other notices will be posted on the D2L platform. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the information posted on D2L. All assignments will be posted on D2L. Citation assignments will not be posted on D2L. Instead, all check the syllabus and go to the MBIE platform for those assignments.

Tornado much? 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. I want everyone in this class to succeed. If a disability is challenging you, here is some information about how to seek accommodations: SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. The Office of Access and Accommodations, formerly 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 OAA 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. Please send approved accommodations to your faculty through the DSS online portal.

SALUKI CARES and COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS). 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, <https://salukicares.siu.edu/>. Associate Dean Shelia Simon ssimon@siu.edu or (618) 536-8321 is available at the Simmons Law School to help students access university resources. Additionally, counseling services are available through CAPS ([Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) | Student Health Services | SIU](#)). A counselor is at the law school every Wednesday from noon until 4:30pm in Room 268 for drop-in appointments.

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>

Schedule: Anticipate that this schedule will be revised over the course of the semester, with updates to be posted on D2L. In particular there will be some shifting of times to accommodate research classes and working with the two other writing classes working on the same materials that we will be using.

	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
Week 1			
January 12th	The Shift to Persuasive Writing	None	None
January 14th	A New Case: Interviewing the Client Class meets at 9am in Prof Vick's classroom.	Chapters 15 and 27	MBIE 9, 10, 11 due January 16th

	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
	There will be no class at 3pm.		
Week 2			
January 19th	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	No Class	Go out and do something good!
January 21st	Entry of Appearance and Discovery		MBIE 12, 13, 14 Due January 27th
Week 3			
January 26th	Motions	Chapters 28-31	
January 28th	More on Motion Memos	Chapters 32-33	MBIE 15, 16, 17 due January 30th (1) Charging Document (2) Entry of Appearance (3) Request for Discovery (4) Answer to Request for Discovery Due
Week 4			
Feb 2nd	Pretrial Proceedings: Drafting Motions		
Feb 4th	Motion Memorandum	Chapters 28-30	MBIE 18, 19, 20 due February 6th
Week 5			
February 9th	Individual conferences on motion memo drafts		MBIE 21, 22, 23 due February 13

	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
February 11th	Individual conference on memo drafts		
Week 6			
February 16th	Introduction to Oral Arguments on Motions		
February 18th	Motion Argument Practice		MBIE 24, 25, 26 Due February 20th Motion and Motion Memorandum Due February 22nd
Week 7			
February 23rd	Motion Arguments graded		
February 25th	Motion Arguments graded		MBIE 27, 28, 29 Due February 25th
Week 8	MIDTERM WEEK	NO CLASS	
Week 9	Spring Break	NO CLASS	MBIE 30, 31, 32 and jury instructions due March 15th
Week 10			
March 16th	Drafting and Negotiating Jury Instructions	Chapters 34-36	

	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
March 18th	People v. Penope – the trial!		MBIE 33, 34, 35 due March 20th
Week 11			
March 23rd	The Appellate Process	Chapters 34-36	
March 25th	Parts of the Brief	Chapters 37-39	
Week 12			
March 30th	Appellate Brief Discussion		
April 1st	Appellate Brief Discussion		
Week 13			
April 6th	Individual conferences for Appellate Brief		
April 8th	Individual conferences for Appellate Brief		
Week 14			
April 13th	Oral Argument practice rounds		
April 15th	Oral Argument practice rounds		Appellate Brief Due before 4pm April 19th
Week 15			

	Topic	Reading Due	Assignment Due
April 22nd	Oral Arguments		
April 24th	Oral Arguments		

This Syllabus incorporates by reference the Provost Syllabus Attachment:

https://provost.siu.edu/_common/documents/syllabus-attachments/syllabus-attachment-spring-2026.pdf

STUDENT RESOURCES – FIND HELP WITH:

- Classes & Studying**
Tutoring, advising, academic support, writing
- Mental & Physical Health**
Counseling, health services, wellness support
- Diversity & Inclusion**
Identity support, cultural centers, advocacy
- Safety & Emergency**
Emergency resources & reporting concerns
- Basic Needs**
HEROES supply closet & food pantry
- Money & Legal Help**
Financial support, legal advice, budgeting help
- Getting Involved**
Clubs, leadership opportunities, employment/Handshake

visit: **solutionfinder.siu.edu**