



**Southern Illinois University  
Simmons Law School  
Advanced Legal Analysis & Strategies  
LAW 639 section 951  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2026 / 3 credit hours/ online**

**Professor Contact Information**

*Instructor name:* Kelly Collinsworth

*E-mail address:* [Kelly.collinsworth@siu.edu](mailto:Kelly.collinsworth@siu.edu)

*Office hours:* I have an open-door policy. You may also book an appointment using my bookings link.

**[Book a meeting with me](#)**

*Office location:* Room 234

*Office phone:* 618-453-8511

**Course Support:** [support@lawstudentonline.com](mailto:support@lawstudentonline.com)

**Course Delivery**

The course is delivered through a series of modules designed around Contracts, Evidence, Torts, and Real Property. After completing a pre-test, you will be introduced to the Systematic Problem-Solving method. For each subject, you will first view substantive lectures to deepen your understanding of the rules. During class, we will work through questions and guided exercises. After class, you will complete additional assignments.

**Online Classroom**

There is an online classroom component for this class through BarBri's D2L platform. While we have a D2L course shell through SIU, there will also be a shell in BarBri's platform. This is where you will view lectures and submit assignments. You will receive an e-mail from [support@lawstudentonline.com](mailto:support@lawstudentonline.com) with your log-in credentials to access the online classroom prior to the first day of class. If you did not receive an e-mail, please contact your professor.

**Course Description:** This course prepares you for the bar exam by focusing on the skills that are critical to your success. Specifically, you will receive in-depth skill instruction on rapid reading comprehension; issue identification; rule mastery; critical thinking, including the recognition of distractors; and legal analysis all in the context of working bar exam style problems. You will also gain a strong conceptual understanding and knowledge of highly tested doctrines and will be taught how to develop, use, and apply a flexible but strong analytical framework to solve bar exam problems.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Effectively apply Systematic Problem-Solving strategies to MBE multiple-choice

- questions and essay questions
- Master rules using a variety of techniques
- Properly construct an organized essay response using the logical paradigm
- Create a strong, fact-driven legal analysis that is responsive to the question(s) asked
- Recall and understand the substantive law reviewed in the course

### Attendance Requirements

Please reference the law school's attendance policy.

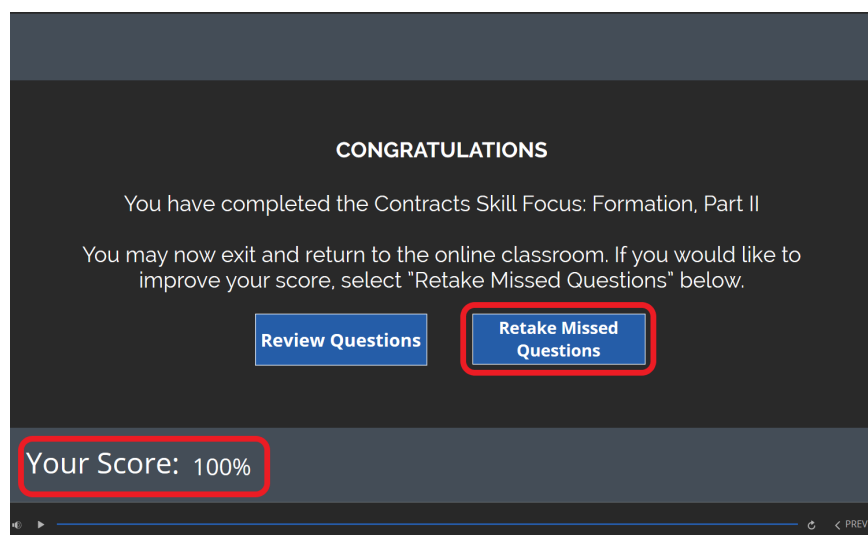
### Course Evaluation/Grading

Grading for this class is on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. To achieve a satisfactory grade for this class, you must earn at least 70% for this class. Your grade in this course will be based on all of the following:

- **Lecture Scores – 25%**
  - **Each substantive lecture, Skill Focus lecture, and Skill Reinforcement lecture is scored.**  
Your overall “Lecture Score” will be the average of all individual lecture scores. The score on each lecture is based on the number of correctly answered questions embedded in the lecture. **However, you are allowed unlimited attempts to re-answer missed questions and bring every lecture score to 100%.** The highest score achieved on each lecture will be factored into your overall “Lecture Score.”

You may retake a lecture to improve the score at any point during the course (i.e., you may improve a lecture score after the deadline has passed for that lecture). After the final exam window has closed, any incomplete lectures will be scored as a zero when calculating your overall “Lecture Score.”

You will know you've completed a lecture once you reach the final “Congratulations!” screen (see screenshot below). Your score on the lecture will be provided on this screen as well. If you would like to improve your lecture score to 100%, click on “**Retake Missed Questions**” and you will have the opportunity to re-answer any questions you initially answered incorrectly. Your highest score will be counted, so it is to your benefit to correctly re-answer missed questions and bring each lecture score to 100%.



To improve a lecture score **after exiting the lecture**, simply re-open that lecture segment, select “Retake Content,” > “Resume” > “Retake Missed Questions.”

- **Quizzes & Essay Submissions – 25%**

- **Retention Building Quizzes:** There are four Retention Building Quizzes assigned in the course (one for each subject). Retention Building Quizzes are scored. Multiple attempts are permitted, and your highest score earned will be counted. Failure to complete any Retention Building Quiz by the close of the final exam period will result in a score of 0 for that quiz.
- **Essay 1 & Essay 2 submissions:** There are eight essays assigned to complete in the course, three (3) of which are submitted for review and feedback. Full credit (100%) is awarded for submitted essays. Failure to submit an essay by the close of the final exam period will result in a score of 0 for that essay.

Note: Essay #2 submissions that are timely submitted will be individually reviewed and scored on a 1-6 scale. **Scores received on these essay submissions do not affect your Quiz & Essay grade.** Remember, these assignments are learning tools and you should review the feedback provided on each Essay #2 submission and use it to improve on the next essay. You will not receive feedback on Real Property Essay #2 but will get a completion grade assessed prior to your final grade submission.

- **Exam I – 15%**

- The midterm may be taken at any time during Week 7 but must be submitted by **5:00 pm PT on 3/1**. It will consist of one essay question and multiple-choice. You will have a total of 90 minutes to complete the midterm exam.
- The midterm exam will be closed book.
- As your midterm approaches, additional details related to the Midterm Exam itself and exam administration will be available in the Midterm Exam Information Module.

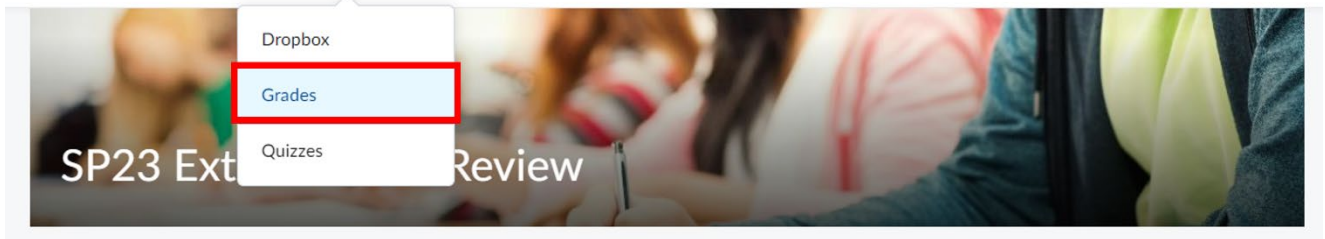
- **Exam II – 25%**

- The final exam will be administered during the final exam period. It will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (cumulative) and one essay question.
- You will have 120 minutes (2 hours) to complete the final exam.
- The final exam will be closed book.
- As your Final Exam approaches, additional details related to the Final Exam itself and exam administration will be available in the Final Exam Information Module.

- **Exam III – 10%**

Your final exam will be administered during the final exam period. It will consist of two 90-minute MPT questions. This exam will be graded by Prof. Collinsworth.

- You may view your overall course score as well as your Lecture Score, Quiz & Essay score and midterm exam score at any point throughout the course directly in the D2L online classroom. To access the gradebook, Click “Assessments” > “Grades” on the Course Navigation Bar.



### **Reading and Homework Assignments**

You are expected to complete the module segments by the dates provided in the below Assignment Schedule. Estimated completion times are provided as a reference and to help you plan accordingly.

You may be given additional assignments during the course. Your instructor reserves the right to change assignments with sufficient notice.

**Assignment Schedule**  
**All weeks begin on Saturday and close on Sunday**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Module Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b> (Must be completed in the order listed. All assignments due by 11:59 pm CT on Sunday each week unless otherwise noted)
<b>Pre-Course Work</b>	Introduction to the Course  MPT  MBE Pre-Test	<i>Complete all activities under the Pre-Course Module:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Introduction to the Course lecture (20 min)</li> <li>• <b>Complete MPT module</b></li> <li>• Complete 40 question MBE Pre-test (40 minutes to complete and 40 minutes to review explanatory answers)</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 1</b> 1/12 – 1/18	Introduction to Systematic Problem Solving  Contracts Substantive Review	<i>Complete all activities under the Week 1 Module:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Systematic Problem-Solving Part I (25 min) &amp; Part II (50 min)</li> <li>• Read Contracts Outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course) (not graded)</li> <li>• Complete Contracts Substantive Lectures: Formation Parts I (40 min), II (45 min), III (50 min), &amp; IV (35</li> </ul>
<b>Teams class meeting</b> January 15 from 9-10 a.m.		

<b>WEEK 2</b> 1/17 – 1/25	Contracts MBE Skill Development & Substantive Review	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 2 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Contracts Skill Focus: Formation Part I (45 min) &amp; Part II (45 min)</li> <li>• Complete Contracts Skill Reinforcement: Formation (45 min)</li> <li>• Complete Contracts Substantive Lectures: Defenses Parts I (50 min), II (30 min), &amp; III (25 min)</li> <li>• Complete Contracts Skill Focus: Defenses (70 min)</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 3</b> 1/24 – 2/1	Contracts MBE Skill Development & Substantive Review  Introduction to Essay Writing	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 3 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Contracts Substantive Lectures: Remedies Parts I (35 min), II (25 min), &amp; III (20 min)</li> <li>• Complete Contracts Skill Focus: Remedies (60 min)</li> <li>• Complete Contracts Skill Reinforcement: Remedies (55 min)</li> <li>• <b><u>Complete Contracts Knowledge and Skill Retention Building Quiz and review explanatory answers</u></b> (20 min plus 20 min to review explanatory answers)</li> <li>• Complete Introduction to Essay Writing (20 min)</li> <li>• Complete Introduction to the MEE (10 min)*  <i>*This lecture is not scored. Please view if you will be taking the bar exam in a UBE jurisdiction or a jurisdiction that uses the Multistate Essay Exam. If you are taking the bar exam in a non-UBE or MEE jurisdiction, please skip this lecture.</i> </li> </ul>

<b>WEEK 4</b> 1/31 – 2/8	Contracts Essay Skill Development  Evidence Substantive Review	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 4 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline and submit an answer to <b><u>Contracts Essay Question 1 (ungraded)</u></b> (30 min, plus 20 min to review model answer)</li> <li>• Complete Contracts Essay #1 Review: Issue Spotting (85 min)</li> <li>• Answer <b><u>Contracts Essay Question 2</u></b> and submit (you will receive graded feedback on this essay) (30 min, plus 20 min to review model answer)</li> <li>• Complete Contracts Essay #2 Review: Creating an Issue T (45 min)</li> <li>• Read Evidence outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course) (not graded)</li> <li>• Complete Evidence Substantive Lectures: Hearsay Part I (25 min), II (60 min), III (35 min) &amp; IV (60 min)</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 5</b> 2/7 – 2/15	Evidence Substantive  Review & MBE Skill Development	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 5 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Evidence Skill Focus: Hearsay Part 1 (55), Part II (45 min)</li> <li>• Complete Evidence Skill Reinforcement: Hearsay (50 min)</li> <li>• Complete Evidence Substantive Lectures: Character Parts I (60 min) &amp; II (50 min)</li> <li>• Complete Evidence Skill Focus: Character (60 min)</li> <li>• Complete Evidence Skill Reinforcement: Character (45 min)</li> </ul>

<b>WEEK 6</b> 2/14 – 2/22	Evidence Substantive Review  MBE/Essay Skill Development	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 6 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Evidence Substantive Lectures: Impeachment Parts I (35 min) &amp; II (35 min)</li> <li>• Complete Evidence Skill Focus: Impeachment (55 min)</li> <li>• Complete Evidence Skill Reinforcement: Impeachment (50 min)</li> <li>• <b><u>Complete Evidence Knowledge and Skill Retention Building Quiz and review explanatory answers</u></b> (20 min plus 20 min to review explanatory answers)</li> <li>• Outline and submit an answer to <b><u>Evidence Essay Question 1 (ungraded)</u></b> (30 min, plus 20 min to review model answer)</li> <li>• Complete Evidence Essay #1 Review: The Mechanics of Essay Writing (60 min)</li> <li>• Answer <b><u>Evidence Essay Question 2 and submit</u></b> (you will receive graded feedback on this essay) (30 min, plus 20 min to review model answer)</li> </ul>
<b>Teams class meeting</b> <b>Thursday, February 12 from 9-10 a.m.</b>		

<b>Week 7</b> 2/21 – 3/1	Evidence Essay Skill Development  <b>Exam I</b>	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 7 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Evidence Essay #2 Review: Grading Exercise (60 min)</li> <li>• Optional (but strongly recommended): Complete practice Midterm (multiple-choice and essay)</li> <li>• Study for Midterm Exam (not graded)</li> <li>• Review Midterm Exam Instructions (not graded)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Complete Exam I by 5:00 pm CT on 3/1.</u></b></p>
<b>WEEK 8</b> 2/28 – 3/15 <i>(Includes Spring Break)</i>	Torts Substantive Review  MBE Skill Development	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 8 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the midterm exam review (not graded)</li> <li>• Read and study Torts outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course) (not graded)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: General and Special Duties of Care (45 min)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Skill Focus: General and Special Duties of Care (75 min)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Skill Reinforcement: General and Special Duties of Care (50 min)</li> </ul>

<b>WEEK 9</b> 3/14 – 3/22	Torts Substantive Review  MBE Skill Development	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 9 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: Special Duty Rules &amp; Breach (45 min)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Skill Focus: Special Duty Rules &amp; Breach (55 min)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Skill Reinforcement: Special Duty Rules &amp; Breach (50 min)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: Causation, Damages &amp; Defenses Segments (60 min)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Skill Focus: Causation, Damages &amp; Defenses (50 min)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Skill Reinforcement: Causation, Damages &amp; Defenses (60 min)</li> <li>• <b><u>Complete Torts Knowledge &amp; Skill Retention Building Quiz and review explanatory answers</u></b> (20 min plus 20 min to review explanatory answers)</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 10</b> 3/21 – 3/29	Torts Essay Skill Development  Real Property Substantive Review	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 10 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline and submit an answer to <b><u>Torts Essay Question 1</u></b> (ungraded) (30 min, plus 20 min to review model answer)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Essay 1 Review: Building a Strong Legal Analysis (55 min)</li> <li>• Answer <b><u>Torts Essay Question 2</u></b> and submit (you will receive graded feedback on this essay) (30 min, plus 20 min to review model answer)</li> <li>• Complete Torts Essay 2 Review: The Hallmarks of a Strong Essay Response (45 min)</li> <li>• Read Real Property outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course) (not graded)</li> </ul>

**Teams class meeting March 26**

<p><b>WEEK 11</b></p> <p>3/28 - 4/5</p>	<p>Real Property Substantive Review</p> <p>MBE Skill development</p>	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 11 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Real Property Substantive Lectures: Real Estate Contracts Part 1(45 min) and Part 2 (45 min)</li> <li>• Complete Real Property Skill Focus: Real Estate Contracts &amp; Deeds (80 min)</li> <li>• Complete Real Property Skill Reinforcement: Real Estate Contracts &amp; Deeds (55 min)</li> <li>• Complete Real Property Substantive Lecture: Titles and Recording Part 1 (50 min) and Part 2 (60 min)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 12</b></p> <p>4/4 – 4/12</p>	<p>Real Property Substantive Review</p> <p>MBE Skill Development</p>	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 12 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Real Property Skill Focus: Recording (80 min)</li> <li>• Complete Real Property Skill Reinforcement: Recording (60 min)</li> <li>• Complete Real Property Substantive Lecture: Mortgages and Foreclosure Part 1 (30 min) and Part 2 (45 min)</li> <li>• Complete Real Property Skill Focus: Mortgages (80 min)</li> </ul>

<b>Week 13</b>  4/11 – 4/19	Real Property Substantive Review  MBE Skill Development  <b>Exam II</b>	<i>Complete all activities under the Week 13 Module:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Real Property Skill Reinforcement: Mortgages (60 min)</li> <li>• <b><u>Complete Real Property Knowledge &amp; Skill Retention Building Quiz and review explanatory answers</u></b> (20 min plus 20 min to review explanatory answers)</li> <li>• Outline and submit an answer to <b><u>Real Property Essay Question 1 (ungraded)</u></b> (30 min, plus 20 min to review model answer)</li> <li>• Complete Real Property Essay #1 Review (30 min)</li> <li>• Answer <b><u>Real Property Essay Question 2</u></b> and submit (you will self-grade this essay) (30 min, plus 20 min to review model answer)</li> <li>• Complete Real Property Essay #2 Review (25 min)</li> <li>• <b>Complete Exam II by April 19.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Teams class meeting</b> Thursday, April 23 from 9-10.		
<b>Exam III</b> 4/28 -5/8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Complete MPT Exam III before 5:00 pm CT on 5/8.</u></b></li> </ul>