

SIU School of Law
LAW-639 section 002
Advanced Legal Analysis &
Strategies Spring 2026/ 3 credit
hours/ in-person Classroom 108

Instructor and Contact Information:

E-mail address: 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: 618-453-511

Course Description: This course is designed to jumpstart your bar exam preparation by developing your substantive knowledge and sharpening your skills. Specifically, you will receive in-depth review of highly tested topics in Contracts, Evidence, Torts and Real Property. You will then put that knowledge to use working through practice multiple-choice questions and integrated item sets. In addition, you will receive an introduction to the type of skills tested on the NextGen exam and tackle multiple performance tasks.

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
- 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

Course Materials

- ✓ All materials will be posted on D2L or handed out in class.

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 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 support email:

Support@lawstudentonline.com

800-472-8899

Evaluation

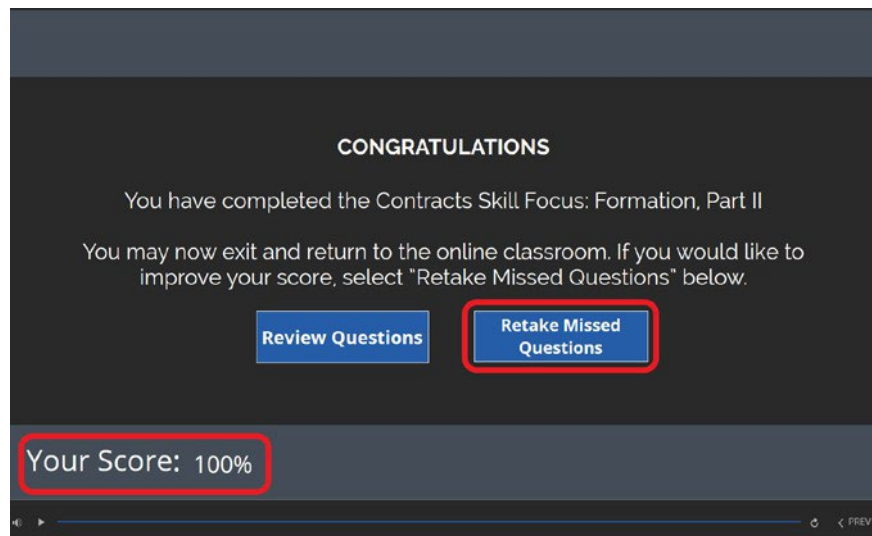
Your grade in this course will be based on:

1. Lecture Scores – 30%

- Each 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.”

2. Quizzes & Performance Task Submissions – 20%

- NextGen Pre-test:** There is one course pre-test focused on the subjects covered in the course. The pre-test serves as a baseline of your initial knowledge and skills.
- Retention Building Quizzes:** There are four Retention Building Quizzes assigned in the course (one for each subject). Retention Building Quizzes are scored.
- Performance Task submissions:** There are three PTs submitted (two for feedback).

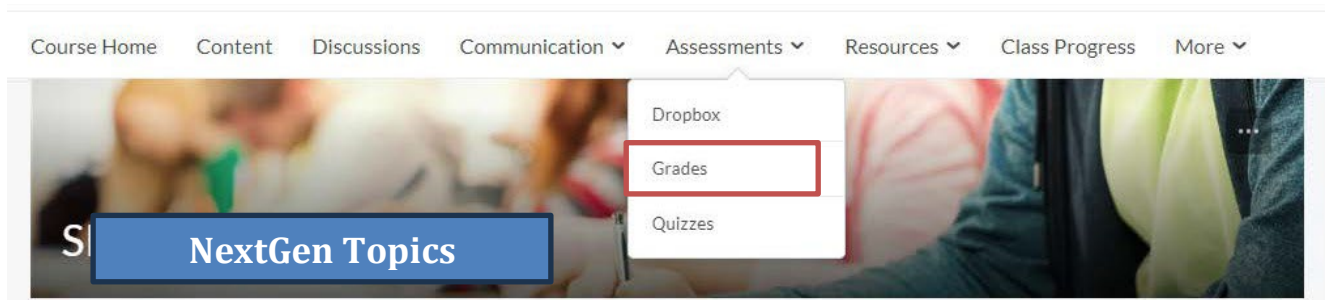
3. Midterm Exam – 20%

- The midterm exam will be completed in-person.
- It will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions and one integrated item set.
- You will have 60 minutes for the exam.
- The midterm exam will cover Contracts and Evidence along with NextGen Skills.
- The midterm exam will be closed-book (no materials allowed).
- As your midterm approaches, additional details related to the Midterm Exam itself and exam administration will be available.

4. Final Exam – 30%

- The final exam will be completed in-person.
- It will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions, two integrated item sets, and one Performance Task.
- You will have 3 hours to complete the final exam.
- The final exam is cumulative and covers all subjects and skills in the course.
- The final exam will be closed-book (no materials allowed).
- As your Final Exam approaches, additional details related to the Final Exam itself and exam administration will be available.

You may view your overall course score as well as your Lecture, Quiz, PT, 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.



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 BarBri D2L online classroom. To access the gradebook, Click “Assessments” >> “Grades” on the Course Navigation Bar.

Class Policies:

Student courtesy policy: The classroom is a shared space where consideration and compassion for others are not negotiable.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected. You are allowed up to **three** absences for any reason, without penalty. Those exceeding the maximum number of absences will be subject to the ramifications described in the Law School’s attendance policy. See School of Law Rules III.5 (f)-(g).

An excerpt from SIU Law’s Attendance Policy is below:

Regular Attendance. In accordance with ABA Standard 308(a), the right to take exams, as well as the privilege of continuing as a student at the School of Law, is conditioned on regular attendance and satisfactory

completion of coursework. . . 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. . . The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will not grant leave from the rules requiring regular attendance unless the request shows extraordinary circumstances or an unavoidable circumstance. If leave is not granted, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will discuss with the student options for withdrawing from a course and retaking in a future semester. [amended 4/19/11; 11/18/22; 5/13/24] (emphasis added).

Reading and Homework Assignments

You are expected to complete the reading and homework assignments prior to each class. This will include uploading completed assignments to the D2L online classroom. You may be given additional assignments during class. Your Professor reserves the right to change assignments with sufficient notice.

Policy for Missed or Late Work & Class Preparation

Due dates for every assignment are provided on the course syllabus and course schedule (and posted in D2L). Law is all about deadlines. Missing deadlines, being unprepared for class, or missing meetings can have dire consequences for your clients and for you (malpractice, loss of respect from the court, discipline from the bar association.) Late work will not be accepted unless prior approval is given. That approval will only be granted in extreme circumstances that are clearly beyond your control. Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings, completing exercises on BarBri, & reviewing all information required for that week.

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.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: 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. SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. 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://salukicare.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>

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE – subject to change. Please check D2L for assignment updates.

ABA standards incorporate out of class work in the calculation of credit hours. Under the ABA standards, you should expect to spend at least 127.5 hours for work in and outside of class in this course.

Date	Topic	Homework assignments to be completed before class
Class 1 1/13	Course Overview/Introduction to the NextGen Bar Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access BarBri D2L online classroom• Read course syllabus• Complete introduction to course
Class 2 1/20	Introduction to Systematic Problem Solving	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 1/19:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit NextGen Pre-Test on D2L• Read the NCBE's Official Examinee's Guide to the NextGen UBE• Review your jurisdiction's bar exam application deadline & requirements
Class 3 1/27	Contracts MCQ: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-class review of initial learning questions for Formation & Defenses	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 1/26:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Contracts Outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course—note starred subtopics)• Complete Contracts Substantive Lecture: <i>Overview and Formation</i>• Complete Contracts Substantive Lecture: <i>Defenses</i>
Class 4 2/3	Contracts IQS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to Approach an Integrated Question Set• Integrated Question Set Workshop (Skill Spotlight: Negotiation & Dispute Resolution)	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 2/2:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Contracts Substantive Lecture: <i>Remedies</i>• Complete Workshop: <i>Remedies</i>
Class 5 2/10	Evidence MCQ: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of initial learning questions for Hearsay & Character	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 2/9:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit Contracts Retention Building Quiz on D2L• Read Evidence Outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course—note starred subtopics)• Complete Evidence Substantive Lecture: <i>Hearsay</i>• Complete Evidence Substantive Lecture: <i>Character</i>
Class 6 2/17	Evidence IQS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence Integrated Question Workshop (Skill Spotlight: Investigation & Evaluation)	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 2/16:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Evidence Substantive Lecture: <i>Impeachment</i>• Complete Workshop: <i>Impeachment</i>
Class 7 2/24	Midterm Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 multiple-choice questions and one integrated question set	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 2/23:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit Evidence Retention Building Quiz on D2L• Complete practice midterm on D2L
Class 8 3/3	Midterm Review & Introduction to the PT	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 3/2:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read PT primer

Class 9 3/17	PT Approach using PT #1	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 3/16:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a response to PT #1 and submit to D2L
Class 10 3/24	Torts MCQ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of initial learning questions for Duty, Breach, Causation, Damages, & Defenses 	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 3/23:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a response to PT #2 and submit to D2L • Read Torts Outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course—note starred subtopics) • Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: <i>General Duty of Care & Special Duty Rules</i> • Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: <i>Breach, Causation, Damages, & Defenses</i>
Class 11 3/31	Torts IQS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torts Integrated Question Workshop (Skill Spotlight: Client Counseling & Advising) • Discuss PT #3 	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 3/30:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: <i>Intentional Torts</i> • Complete Workshop: <i>Intentional Torts</i> • Submit a response to PT #3 and submit to D2L
Class 12 4/7	Real Property MCQ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of initial learning questions for Conveyancing, Deeds & Recording 	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 4/6:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Torts Retention Building Quiz on D2L • Read Real Property Outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course—note starred subtopics) • Complete Real Property Substantive Lecture: <i>Conveyancing & Deeds</i> • Complete Real Property Substantive Lecture: <i>Recording</i>
Class 13 4/14	Real Property IQS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Property Integrated Question Workshop (Skill Spotlight: Legal Research & Client Relationship Management) 	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 4/13:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Real Property Substantive Lecture: <i>Mortgages</i> • Complete workshop: <i>Mortgages</i>
Class 14 4/21	Final Exam Prep & Bar Study Success Skills	<i>Complete assignments listed below by 11:59 PM on 4/21:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Real Property Retention Building Quiz on D2L • Study for final exam
Final Exam [Date]	Final Exam (40 multiple-choice questions, 2 integrated item sets, one PT)	