



**Bar Essay Writing and Analysis
Spring 2020 Course Syllabus
Section 185 -- Tuesday and Thursday**

Instructor: Amy Dimitriadis
Phone: (978) 681-0800 ext. 130
amyd@mslaw.edu

Required Text:

1. Strategies & Tactics for the MBE, Emanuel, Sixth Edition
2. Clearing the Last Hurdle, Wanda Temm, Second Edition

The two texts, which will also be required for Comparison (editions may vary), will be available in the MSLAW bookstore and offered to our students at a special bundled price. Older editions should not be used

3. MBE and MBE Flashcards, Kaplan Bar Review

OR

4. MBE and MEE Flashcards, Critical Pass

You are required to purchase one of the above MBE/MEE flashcard sets.

- **If you choose to order the Kaplan cards, the Kaplan representative will be on campus and in the MSLAW café on the first day of class.**
- **If you choose to order the Critical Pass cards, contact me so I can provide you the ordering information (and discount code)**

Recommended Text: Bar Exam Boot Camp for the MBE by Emanuel (available at reserve desk)

Course Description: This course focuses on honing and improving students' analytical and writing skills, with a special emphasis on the analytical and writing skills used for successful completion of the essay portion of the bar examination. Students will explore issue spotting techniques and methods of analysis; learn helpful tips for writing essay exams; receive personalized feedback on essays; and review the substantive law necessary to write the essay portion of the uniform bar exam, which is now administered in Massachusetts.

Course Overview: This is an intensive writing class, and you should expect to complete various in-class assignments, in addition to other exercises and scheduled readings. **Students must have completed all seven substantive courses tested by the Multi-State Bar Exam before taking this course: Torts, Contracts, Property, Civil Procedure, Evidence, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law/Criminal Procedure.**

It is recommended that you also have completed Business Entities, UCC, Wills & Trusts, and Family Law.

You will complete 8 graded in-class assignments during the semester, on which you will receive personal feedback. There will be 4 graded take-home assignments and weekly exercises. You will write a mid-term exam and a three-hour final exam.

Course Grading: Each assignment will be graded on a seven-point scale, consistent with the grading employed by the Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners.

Your final letter grade will be based on the following assignments and allocation of points:

8 Multi-State Essay Examinations, worth 7 points each (56 points total)
1 Multi-State Performance Test, worth 7 points (7 points total)
4 Take-Home Assignments, worth 7 points each (28 points total)
11 Weekly Exercises, worth 1 point each (11 points total)
Midterm (21 points total)
Final exam (77 points total)

MSL POLICY:

All students are required to achieve 40% or higher on their qualifying Assessment Test prior to enrolling in Bar Essay. If you have not achieved 40% or higher on your Assessments Tests or you have not taken an Assessment Test, you should see me immediately. Ineligible students will be withdrawn from Bar Essay.

ALL students are required to take and satisfactorily complete Bar Essay Writing prior to enrolling in the Comparison course. Satisfactory completion of Bar Essay Writing requires that the student receive no less than a “C” in the course. If a student does not receive a “C” or better, they must retake the course.

There will be ONE designated day for make-up work on which you MUST make up any work you missed during the course in order to pass.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for each and every class. Students may make up one in-class essay during the semester. Students must receive special permission for any additional make-up assignments. Students who accumulate more than three (3) unexcused absences will have their grade reduced by one-third for each unexcused absence thereafter.

OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

| DATE | READING AND ASSIGNMENTS To be completed before class | TOPICS |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 1/21 | Temme, Chapters 1-8 | Introduction to the UBE Anatomy of a Bar Essay Question |
| Thursday 1/23 | | NO CLASS |
| Tuesday 1/28 | Temme, Chapters 1-8 | Structure of a Bar Essay Answer and Bar Essay Writing |
| Thursday 1/30 | Temme, Chapter 13 Emanuel, pg. 305-314 MBE Evidence Flashcards | ***Take Home #1 Distributed*** |
| Tuesday 2/4 | Temme, Chapter 13 Emanuel, pg. 305-314 MBE Evidence Flashcards | Evidence Sample Essay |
| Thursday 2/6 | Temme, Chapter 9 Emanuel, pg. 1-24 MBE Civil Procedure Flashcards | ***Take Home #1 DUE*** |
| Tuesday 2/11 | Temme, Chapter 9 Emanuel, pg. 1-24 MBE Civil Procedure Flashcards | Civil Procedure Sample Essay |
| Thursday 2/13 | | In-Class Essays |
| Tuesday 2/18 | Temme, Chapter 14 Emanuel, pg. 375-384 MBE Property Flashcards | |

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| Thursday 2/20 | Temm, Chapter 11 Emanuel, pg. 161-172 MBE Contracts Flashcards | |
| Tuesday 2/25 | | Property Sample Essay Contracts Sample Essay ***Take Home #2 Distributed*** |
| Thursday 2/27 | | In-Class Essays |
| Tuesday 3/3 | Temm, Chapter 15 Emanuel, pg. 441-450 MBE Torts Flashcards | ***Take Home #2 DUE*** |
| Thursday 3/5 | Temm, Chapter 16 MEE Corporations Flashcards MEE Agency Flashcards MEE Partnership Flashcards | |
| Tuesday 3/10 | | Torts Sample Essay Corporations, Agency, Partnership Sample Essay |
| Thursday 3/12 | | In-Class Essays |
| Tuesday 3/24 | Compare Graded Bar Essay Samples | |
| Thursday 3/26 | | MIDTERM |
| Tuesday 3/31 | Temm, Chapter 12 Emanuel, pg. 233-242 MBE Criminal Law & Procedure Flashcards | |
| Thursday 4/2 | Temm, Chapter 10 Emanuel, pg. 89-104 MBE Con Law Flashcards | |

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| Tuesday 4/7 | | Criminal Law & Procedure Sample Essay Constitutional Law Sample Essay |
| Thursday 4/9 | | In-Class Essays ***Take Home #3 Distributed*** |
| Tuesday 4/14 | Temm, Chapter 5 Handouts | MPT Overview: (Persuasive Brief, Objective Memo, Opinion Letter, Demand Letter) |
| Thursday 4/16 | | ***Take Home #3 DUE*** |
| Tuesday 4/21 | Temm, Chapter 5 Handouts | MPT Overview: (Persuasive Brief, Objective Memo, Opinion Letter, Demand Letter) |
| Thursday 4/23 | Temm, Chapter 5 Handouts | MPT Sample ***Take Home #4 Distributed*** |
| Tuesday 4/28 | This class will begin early or end late, as will be discussed in class | In-Class MPT ***Take Home #4 DUE*** |
| Thursday 4/30 | | Taking and Passing the Bar Final Exam Review |
| TBA | | FINAL 3-HOUR EXAM |