

WRITING AND LEGAL REASONING
FALL 2022 - Day and Evening Class
Director: Professor Anne Hemingway

UPDATED SYLLABUS

EMAIL: Hemingway@mslaw.edu

PHONE: 978-681-0800 ext. 118

Office Hours: Drop in first Monday of the Month 5pm – 7pm

Zoom Office Hours: Drop in last Thursday of the Month 4pm – 6pm

Zoom: <https://mslaw-edu.zoom.us/j/96249928401?pwd=a3VkeVBDYlJ5ZEt1UXRGd0FmWkNBQT09>

Required Text: *The Lawyer's Craft*, Glaser, Lieberman, Ruescher, & Su
 Just Writing, Anne Enquist & Laurel Currie Oates (6th) *

*Connected Quizzing is a required component for this course. Instructions for purchasing access to Connected Quizzing is attached. You can purchase the 5th edition of Just Writing but chapter and section numbers will be based on the 6th edition.

CLASS DAYS/TIMES: Monday & Wednesday 11:00-12:20 p.m.*, 1:00-2:20 p.m.* & 7:30-8:50 p.m.

***Day students will be assigned to either an 11:00am class or a 1:00pm class.**

Students are responsible for bringing handouts to class. All handouts can be found on the course TWEN page (<https://lawschool.westlaw.com/twen>) click on **Writing and Legal Reasoning**.

****Writing classes are intentionally kept small for an ideal learning environment. You will be assigned a professor during your first class. Your class assignments will be posted to the course TWEN page on Westlaw(<https://lawschool.westlaw.com/twen>). If you have trouble logging in, contact Dan Harayda (harayda@mslaw.edu) or Mick Coyne (mick@mslaw.edu).**

Please note: The syllabus is subject to change. You will be informed of changes as they occur.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grading: Your final class grade will be based upon case briefs, quizzes, in-class writings, and three writing assignments. Possible points per assignment:

- Case Briefs (10 points)
- Writing Skills/Connected Quizzes (5-10 points)
- In-class writings (15 points)
- Case Analysis 1 (25 points)
- Case Analysis II (50 points)
- Case Analysis III (75 points)
- Professionalism Points (50 points)

There will be no make-up of in-class work granted for any unexcused absence (as determined by the professor). The professor can, however, consider a lack of attendance in determining the final grade, along with any other acts of unprofessionalism, as explained below:

A critical component of practicing law is always acting professionally. Since law school is where you learn to become a lawyer, you should always handle yourself professionally. This includes, but is not limited to, attending class regularly and on time, submitting assignments on time and in the appropriate format, actively participating in class, turning cell phones off *before* class, and not surfing the Internet or using e-mail during class. Also, how you conduct yourself in your interactions—both in person and via e-mail—with the professor and others is a reflection of your professionalism. **Each student will start the semester with 50 professionalism points. Points will be deducted for any unprofessional conduct, as explained above.**

Assignments: Cases for case brief assignments are located in the coursebook for your substantive class unless otherwise stated. Other supplemental material will be posted under the Course Material on the course TWEN page. Quizzes on Connected Quizzing will be due the Sunday following the date the quiz is assigned unless otherwise noted.

All assignments are due at the beginning of your regular class time on the due date. Submissions after the start of class are considered late.

Every assignment you submit must be your own work, including case briefs, outlines, and papers. Please read the course overview, plagiarism handouts and plagiarism warning; submit your signed plagiarism warning on the first day of class. All documents are located on the course TWEN page under course materials. Please review the MSLAW policy on Academic Honesty.

Week 1: Course overview. Reading and briefing cases.

Monday – August 22nd

All day sections will meet at 1:00pm in Room 216.

All night sections will meet at 7:30pm in Room 214.

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *Just Writing – Ch. 1*, pp 1-21; Plagiarism and Proofreading Materials on TWEN

Wednesday – August 24th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft Ch. 3* pp 40-58; **Do all exercises pp 58 -62.** Materials on TWEN.

Writing Skills Exercise: Proofreading

Connected Quizzing: Diagnostic Grammar Test

Week 2: Review case briefs. Introduction to Legal Analysis. Analyzing Legal Issues. Thesis & Topic Sentences.

Monday – August 29th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft* – Ch. 1 & 2, pp 1 - 34; **Do all exercises pp 35 – 38.**

Case Briefs Due (Civil Procedure): Weinberger v. Romero

Wednesday – August 31st

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *Just Writing* – Ch 2 & 3, pp 23-45. Materials on TWEN.

Writing Skills Exercise: Paragraphs

Week 3: Introduction to Issue Spotting, Rule-Based Reasoning, and IRAC.

Monday – September 5th LABOR DAY

NO CLASS

Wednesday – September 7th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: Materials on TWEN; *Just Writing* – Ch. 4, pp 47-61

Case Briefs Due (Civil Procedure): Connecticut v. Doehr

In-Class Writing #1 (IRAC Practice Take-home) due beginning of next class

Week 4: Review of IRAC and Issue Spotting. Outlining – Papers, Class Notes, Exams

Monday – September 12th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: **In-Class Writing #1 (IRAC Practice Take-home)**

Wednesday – September 14th:

Required Reading and Assignment Due: Articles – Creating an Outline for a Law School Course. *Just Writing* Ch. 1, §1.2 and Ch. 6 Effective Words.

Case Briefs Due (Civil Procedure): International Shoe Co. vs. Washington
Writing Skills Exercise: Concision

Week 5: Analogy-Based Reasoning. Case Analysis I.

Monday – September 19th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft – Ch. 4, pp 63 -72*; **Do all exercises pp 73 -77**; *Just Writing* Ch 7 Bias Free Language. **Connected Quizzing.**

Wednesday – September 21st

Case Briefs Due: (Business Entities) Sutton Mutual v. Notre Dame

In-Class Writing 2 (Business Entities)

Week 6: Statutory Analysis

Monday, September 26th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft* Ch. 5 pp 79-98

Wednesday, September 28th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *Just Writing*, Ch. 9, §9.1-§9.4; **Connected Quizzing**

Case Briefs Due (Business Entities): Arthur Murray v. Witter

Week 7: Preparing for and Writing the Law School Exam/The Legal Memorandum

Monday, October 3rd

Case Analysis I Due

Required Reading: *The Lawyer's Craft, Ch. 17 pp 293 – 304*; *Just Writing*, Ch. 9 §9.4-§9.5: Pronouns/Modifiers/Parallelism; **Connected Quizzing.**

Wednesday, October 5th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft, Ch.6*

In-class Writing #3 (Civil Procedure)

Week 8: TRAC/CREAC; Case Analysis II

Monday, October 10th Indigenous People's Day NO CLASS

Wednesday, October 12th

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft*, Ch. 7 pp 115 -136; *Just Writing*: Ch. 10, §10.1 Commas; **Connected Quizzing**.

Week 9: Rule Synthesis; Discussion Section

Monday, October 17th

Discussion – Case Analysis II Assignment

Required Reading and Assignment Due: Articles/Video Posted to TWEN

Wednesday, October 19th

Discussion – Case Analysis II Assignment

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft*, Ch. 8 pp 145 -155

In-class Writing #4 (Business Entities)

Case Briefs Due (Business Entities): Fenwick v. Unemployment Commission

Week 10: Legal Authorities and Citations

Monday, October 24th

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment

Required Reading: Case Analysis

Wednesday, October 26th

Introduction to binding v. persuasive authority and legal citations

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft* pp 226 – 229; *Just Writing*, Ch. 10 §10.2 - §10.4 Semicolon/Colon/Apostrophe; **Connected Quizzing**.

Week 11: Case Analysis III

Monday, October 31st

Case Analysis II Due

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft* pp. 167-171

Wednesday, November 2nd

Introduction to Case Analysis Assignment III

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *Just Writing*, Ch. 9, §§9.2-9.4; **Connected Quizzing.**

Week 12:

Monday, November 7th

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

Case Briefs Due: Cases assigned for Case Analysis

Wednesday, November 9th

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

Required Reading and Assignment Due: **Connected Quizzing**

Week 13:

Monday, November 14th

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

Wednesday, November 16th

Headings/Subheadings

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

Week 14:

Monday, November 21st

Draft for Case Analysis Assignment Due
Self-Editing Exercise

Wednesday, November 23rd

In-Writing #5 (Civil Procedure)

Week 15: Preparing for Finals/Wrap up

Monday, November 28th

Conferences

Wednesday, November 30th

Required Assignment: **Connected Quizzing**

Final questions regarding case analysis assignment
Last Day for In-class writing make-up

Week 16:

Monday, December 5th

FINAL CASE ANALYSIS III DUE
In-class Writing #6