

**WRITING AND LEGAL REASONING**  
***SPRING 2023 - Day and Evening Class***  
**Director: Professor Anne Hemingway**

**Updated Syllabus**

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Office Hours: Mondays 3 pm – 6 pm or by appointment

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 (6<sup>th</sup>) with Connected  
Quizzing\*

\*Connected Quizzing is a required component of this course. Instructions for purchasing access to Connected Quizzing are attached. You can buy the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Just Writing, but chapter and section numbers will be based on the 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

**CLASS DAYS/TIMES:** Monday & Wednesday 11:00-12:20 p.m.\*, 1:00-2:20 p.m.\* & 9:00 p.m.-10:20 p.m.

**\*Day students will be assigned to either the 11:00 am class or a 1:00 pm 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 need help logging in, contact Dan Harayda ([harayda@mslaw.edu](mailto:harayda@mslaw.edu)) or Mick Coyne ([mick@mslaw.edu](mailto: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 on case briefs, quizzes, in-class writings, three prepared papers, and a final exam. Possible points per assignment:

- Case Briefs (10 points)
- Writing Skills/Connected Quizzes (5-10 points)
- In-class Writing (15 points)
- Case Analysis I (25 points)
- Case Analysis II (50 points)
- Case Analysis III (75 points)
- Final Exam (100 points)
- Professionalism Points (50 points)

**No make-up of in-class work will be 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 reflects 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, and 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.

**Wednesday – January 18<sup>th</sup>**

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

**All night sections will meet at 9:00 pm in Room 214.**

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

Writing Skills Exercise: Proofreading

**Week 2:** Review case briefs. Introduction to Legal Analysis. Analyzing Legal Issues.

**Monday – January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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

**Connected Quizzing: Diagnostic Grammar Test Due Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday – January 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Case Briefs #1 Due (Contracts): Kirksey v. Kirksey**

**Week 3:** Thesis & Topic Sentences. Introduction to Issue Spotting, Rule-Based Reasoning, and IRAC.

**Monday – January 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

Writing Skills Exercise: Paragraphs

**Wednesday – February 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

**Case Brief #2 Due (Contracts): Alaska Packer's Association v. Domenico**

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

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

**Monday – February 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Wednesday – February 8<sup>th</sup>**

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 Brief #3 Due (Contracts): Langer v. Steel**

Writing Skills Exercise: Concision

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

**Monday – February 13<sup>th</sup>**

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: Gender Neutral Language due Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

**Wednesday – February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Case Brief #4 Due (Torts:) Martin v. Herzog**

**In-Class Writing 2 (Torts)**

**Week 6:** Statutory Analysis

**Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**Case Brief #5 Due (Torts): Perkins v. Texas and New Orleans R. Co.**

**Connected Quizzing: Subject-Verb Agreement and Conjunctions Due Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm**

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

**Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Case Analysis I Due**

Required Reading: *The Lawyer's Craft, Ch. 17 pp 293 – 304, Ch.6*; *Just Writing*, Ch. 9 §9.5-§9.7: Pronouns/Modifiers/Parallel Structure.

**Connected Quizzing: Pronouns, Modifiers, and Parallel Structures Due Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

**Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft*, Ch. 7 pp 115 -136

**In-class Writing #3 (Contracts)**

**Week 8:** TRAC/CREAC; Case Analysis II

**Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Discussion – Case Analysis II Assignment

Required Reading and Assignment Due: Articles/Video Posted to TWEN; *Just Writing*: Ch. 10, §10.1 Commas.

**Connected Quizzing: Commas Due Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm.**

**Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Discussion – Case Analysis II Assignment

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

**SPRING BREAK** March 12<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Week 9:** Rule Synthesis; Discussion Section

**Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Discussion – Case Analysis II Assignment

**Case Brief #6 Due (Torts): Baxter v. Ford**

**Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**In-class Writing #4 (Torts)**

*Just Writing*, Ch. 10 §10.2 - §10.4 Semicolon/Colon/Apostrophe.

**Connected Quizzing: Semicolons, Colons, and Apostrophes Due Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Week 10:** Legal Authorities and Citations

**Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Introduction to binding v. persuasive authority and legal citations  
Required Reading and Assignment Due: *The Lawyer's Craft Ch. 12.*

**Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Case Analysis II Due**

**Introduction to Case Analysis Assignment III**

**In-class Writing # 5 (Case Brief)**

Required Reading and Assignment Due: *Material on TWEN*

**Week 11:** Case Analysis III

**Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

**Case Briefs Due: Cases assigned for Case Analysis**

**Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

**Week 12:**

**Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

**Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

**Week 13:**

**Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> Patriot's Day**

**Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Discussion – Case Analysis Assignment 3 Continued

Required Reading Due: Materials on TWEN (**Headings/Subheadings**)

**Week 14: Preparing for Finals/Wrap up**

**Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

Draft for Case Analysis Assignment Due  
**Self-Editing Exercise**

**Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**In-Writing #6 (Contracts)**

**Week 15:**

**Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Conferences**

**Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Conferences Continued

Final questions regarding case analysis assignment

Last Day for In-class writing make-up

**Week 16:**

**Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

Final Case Analysis III Due

## **Final Exam**