



COMPARISON OF MA & NAT'L LAW FALL 2023

Significant Course Changes – READ CAREFULLY

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Instructors:

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MSLAW/Themis Bar Review Partnership

Starting August 7, 2023:

Accessing Themis Bar Review

Logging In:

- Go to www.themisbar.com/sign_in
- Username: Your @msl.edu email address (please do NOT change your username)
- Temporary password: set4now (you should change your password)

Fall Comparison Course

Themis will be providing course materials for the Fall 2023 Comparison course.

Course Components: Each MBE subject is broken up into 4 topic-specific modules. Each module contains a portion of the outline, a series of video lectures, 15 multiple-choice questions, and 1 essay.

- **Outlines** – The outlines are fully searchable and should be fully reviewed and studied prior to watching video lectures.
- **Lectures** – Each lecture is 15-20 minutes, and each is focused on a specific topic. You will be assigned these lectures as a pre-class assignment.
 - When completing the lectures, please be sure to fill out the accompanying lecture handout, which will serve as your main review tool throughout the course.
 - Once you have completed a video chapter, answer the assessment questions to gauge your understanding of the material.
- **Multiple-Choice Questions and MEE Essays** – Topic-specific questions help you take the law and apply it to specific factual scenarios.

UWorld Learning Platform with MBE QBank

Starting August 7, 2023:

Logging In:

- Go to www.lp.uworld.com/login
- Username: Your @msl.edu email address (please do NOT change your username)

The UWorld MBE QBank is an assessment tool consisting of over 2,000 practice multiple-choice questions. Over 1,375 questions are released, licensed MBE questions from the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

The QBank allows you to build custom practice quizzes, consisting of multiple-choice questions from the subject(s) and/or subtopic(s) of your choosing. Each question is accompanied by robust answer explanations, containing visual aids, learning links, and educational objectives. You will receive real-time quiz results and performance analytics, and also have the ability to create digital flashcards. In addition, your professors will also create quizzes on the platform for homework and in-class exercises.

The Best Ways to Use QBank:

- The QBank can be used to practice or apply the law in specific topics covered in class. For instance, if you just finished studying Hearsay in Evidence, you might want to practice some questions on that topic.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses. As you continue to practice questions and receive results, you will be able to identify the subtopics where you may need additional help. You can then do additional practice in these areas.

Supplemental Materials (Accessed via your Themis Profile)

2L/3L Law School Essentials

Launching Law School Essentials:

Once you have logged in, click the blue Launch button next to “2L/3L Law School Essentials.”

Subjects Covered:

Criminal Procedure
Corporations
Evidence
Wills & Estates
Constitutional Law

Law School Essentials Components:

1. **Outlines:** You have these available to print as well as online.
2. **Lectures:**
 - Each lecture is segmented into 3-11 minute chapters focused on a specific topic.
 - **QUICK TIP:** *Watch the lecture(s) again after covering a topic in class if you want a refresher or clarification.*
 - These lectures can be downloaded on the Themis Bar Review mobile app, so that you can listen on the go.
3. **Key Concept Sheets**
 - The Key Concept Sheets summarize the rules within each topic, and reference common cases.
 - These are available to print as well as downloadable PDF files online.
4. **Multiple-Choice Questions**
 - 10 multiple-choice practice questions for each subject are available for you to complete in Interactive Mode or Test Mode.
 - Interactive Mode allows you to see immediately whether your answer is correct and why, along with a detailed explanation of each answer choice.
 - Test Mode allows you to complete the session before issuing a score report and answer explanations.
 - Once you have completed a session, you may access the task to review the questions.
5. **Essay Questions**
 - You have 5 practice essays available within each subject, and each essay is accompanied by a model answer.

Mobile App: Download the Themis Bar Review app and UWorld apps to access these resources on the go.

Themis OPT OUT Deadline:

Upon completion of Comparison and graduation, you will have access to the Themis Bar Review preparation. If you do not wish to continue with Themis Bar Prep, you **MUST** opt out by September 7, 2023. To opt out, email Professor Dimitriadis at amy.d@mshlaw.edu

Required

All materials assigned on your Themis portal (also check Comparison Calendar/Course Syllabus for daily assignments and readings)

What You Should Do Before the Classes Start

Log into your Themis account to make sure you have access to all the study materials and resources. The accounts were set up using your @msl.edu email address as your username.

Please do not change your username. You may add an alternate email address in your Themis profile for receiving emails.

Using your *Strategies & Tactics* book, you should read the sections at the beginning entitled “How to Use This Book” (pages xix to xxiii) and “How to Attack the MBE” (pages xxv to xlix). There are some excellent suggestions in these pages, so you should come back and refresh your memory by rereading portions during the course, and even after you have passed the course and are studying for the bar exam.

Structure of the Course

The course is comprised of:

1. The Seven (7) Substantive Law Sections:

- A. The substantive sections are: Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Contracts/Art. 2, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property, and Torts (not necessarily covered in this order; see Calendar). Each section will be covered in blocks of two weeks apiece. Classes will be three (3) days a week: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Day) and 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Evening) and Saturdays (generally) from 9 a.m. to noon (usually, the first half of the session is devoted to the professor’s coverage of the subject and the second half will be the “Bar Exam Skills” session conducted by Professor Panagakis (schedule is subject to change).
- B. Prior to the first class of each substantive section, you must listen to the lecture videos under each of the 4 modules for the next subject and complete the fill-in-the-blank outlines that correspond to each of those video lectures. **You will have until 11:59 pm Wednesday of the first week of each section to complete and submit the entire subject outline (for all 4 modules) on TWEN under Assignment & Quizzes** (For Criminal Law/Pro, which is the first section this Fall, you will have until 11:59 pm on Wednesday, August 16th to submit the completed outline). Completing this outline and submitting it on time will earn you five (5) points that will be added to your section final score as described below.

If you fail to complete and submit the outline on time, you will miss out on those possible five (5) extra points, which could make the difference between passing or failing the course. So, you should prepare properly to do well on the extra credit outline assignment. This will also help form a foundation for success for the rest of

the section, and ultimately for the bar exam. Here are the steps you should take to succeed each section:

1. Begin to prepare as soon as the final exam for the prior section is over and continue to prepare until you complete and timely submit the lecture outline.
 2. Begin your preparation by going straight to the *Strategies & Tactics* section at the beginning of each substantive section in your *Strategies & Tactics* book. These seven introductions to the specific substantive sections provide excellent study and test taking tips. These sections will help you immensely.
 3. Prepare for the section by listening to the assigned lectures and fill in the corresponding outline on your Themis portal. Each module chapter is followed by questions, which allow you to determine whether you are understanding and learning the material.
 4. Recommended: Each of the substantive law sections in your *Strategies & Tactics* book has 65 to 70 MBE questions with answers and explanations. You should do these questions carefully and thoroughly. This means that you should understand the legal reasons for each right and wrong answer for each question. Merely doing the questions and checking your answers is a wasted effort. You need to understand the law and reasoning of each question to prepare properly.
 5. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, please understand that you should approach each section – indeed, the entire course – as a means of laying a solid foundation that will help you reach your ultimate goal: passing the bar exam on the first attempt. Trying to do only enough to eke by in each section (a task-oriented approach rather than a goal-oriented approach) will lead to success neither in this course nor on the bar exam.
- C. Each substantive law section will include a minimum of four 5-question quizzes administered during the classes plus an additional quiz (varying formats) to be completed in each section for Professor Panagakis. Each of these (5 or more) quizzes will carry a total value of 5 points and your highest three scores will be averaged to create a final quiz score ranging from 0 to 5. If you miss a class, you may only make up a quiz if you can provide medical documentation justifying your absence. You must also make up the quiz *before* the start of the next class or else you will not be permitted a makeup quiz. Since we average the top 3 scores out of a minimum of 5 quizzes, you will have ample opportunity to take the remaining quizzes and improve your score.
- D. **Students are required to bring their laptop/tablet devices to class in order to access their Themis portal.** Your section professor will go over questions from the portal. Quizzes will also be administered in class on your Themis portal.

- E. Each section will conclude with a 45-question section final exam, with each question counting one (1) raw point; the highest possible raw score on the section final exam is 45 points. **Students are required to bring an Examsoft-compatible device to class in order to complete the section final exam.**
- F. Each section will be scored on a 200-point scale as is the bar exam. Here is how that will happen: First, your raw score on the final section exam will be added to the average of your quiz scores to comprise a final raw score. The highest final raw score you can obtain is a 50 (45 on the section final exam plus an average quiz score of 5). For example, let's say that you get a 5, 3, 2, 4, and 3 on your quizzes, and a 29 out of 45 on your final section exam. Your top three quizzes – 5, 4, and 3 – will be averaged: $5 + 4 + 3 = 12$; $12 / 3$ equals an average of 4 on the quizzes. When you add the average quiz score of 4 to the final exam score of 29, you get a final raw score of 33.

Now, we convert the 33 out of 50 possible points into a 200-point scale. Since 50 divides into 200 by multiple of 4, we merely multiply the final raw score by 4: here, $33 \times 4 = 132$.

The passing score of each section is a 135, so you will not have passed the section. However, if you have timely submitted the Lecture Outline, that can add up to 5 points onto your final section score. If you correctly completed the outline, we will add 5 points onto your score and you will pass the section: $132 + 5 = 137$. The highest possible score you can achieve is a 200 out of 200; while the Lecture Outline provides a way of increasing your score on account of diligence, it cannot be used to raise your grade above 200.

2. Your Section Scores Comprise Half of Your Final Score

At the completion of the seven substantive sections, your final score from each section will be added and averaged to constitute half (50%) of your score. The following rules apply in determining whether you have qualified to take the course final exam at this point (you cannot pass the course without qualifying to take the final exam):

- A. The passing score for each section is 135.
- B. You must achieve a 135 average after the seven (7) multistate subjects to qualify to take the final exam. Stated another way, there are 1400 possible points you can achieve at the end of the seven multistate sections ($200 \times 7 = 1400$). You must achieve at least 945 points ($135 \times 7 = 945$) to qualify for the final exam. The 135 average passing score is firm because there has to be a cutoff somewhere and this is what the collective faculty has decided must be the cutoff. You will not be allowed to take the course final exam if you score an average of less than 135 points on the seven sections, or less than 945 points after adding the scores of the seven sections.

- C. You *also* must pass four (4) of the seven (7) sections with a final score of at least 135 to qualify to take the final exam. Once you fail a fourth section, *you will immediately become disqualified from taking the final exam*, although you may finish out the sections only for the purpose of practice for the next semester. **If you are disqualified from taking the final exam, you may continue attending classes and taking the quizzes, but you may not take the remaining section final exams.**

3. **A Six-Hour, 200-Question MBE Style Exam Comprises the Other Half of Your Final Score**

For those who qualify, on Saturday, December 2nd, 2023, you will take a 200-question, six-hour, “multistate” (multiple choice) final examination. For standard-time takers, the exam will be given in one (1) “Morning” session (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) and one (1) “Afternoon” session (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.). Students with extra-time accommodations will take the final exam over the course of two days (Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd); we will be giving notice to students with extra-time accommodations in advance of December 2nd and only after the students have qualified for the course final exam.

On the course final exam, each correct answer counts for 1 point and you can score up to 200 points. Your score on the final exam will count for half (50%) of your final score. Your final score for the course will be calculated as follows:

- A. The section grades will count for fifty (50%) percent of your final grade (assuming, of course, that you score at least a 135 average at the end of classes/section exams and have obtained a 135 on at least four (4) of the seven (7) sections).
- B. The final multistate exam will count for fifty percent (50%) of your final grade. Here are a few examples of how that will work:
1. Your final section average is 136. You get 138 on the final exam.
 $136 + 138 = 274$; $274 / 2 = 137$. You have passed the course.
 2. Your final section average is 136. You get a 132 on the final exam.
 $136 + 132 = 268$; $268 / 2 = 134$. You have failed the course.
 3. Your final section average is 146. You get a 132 on the final exam.
 $146 + 132 = 278$; $278 / 2 = 139$. You have passed the course.

As you can see, it is important to do more than merely pass each section with scores of 135; barely passing gives you no cushion if you stub your toe on the final exam. In the third example above, you built an 11-point cushion that protected you when you scored 3 points under passing on the final exam. Consider the possibilities. Achieving a 150-point average going into the final

exam gives you a 15-point cushion. This means you will pass the course even if you score as low as 120 on the final exam ($150 + 120 = 270$; $270 / 2 = 135$). The course rewards you for doing your diligent preparation right from the beginning and maintaining the highest scores possible throughout the course. This is also the key to building a strong foundation to enable you to pass the bar exam on the first attempt.

** See three (3) sample score sheets attached at the end of this course memo, which illustrate a few scoring scenarios.

4. Scoring the Course

After averaging the final section scores and course final exam score, you must have a Final Score of 135 to pass the course. Students scoring a 135 or better will receive a “Pass” for the course. Students with a 155 or more average at the end of the course will receive a “Pass with Honors” for the course. (Students who have previously failed to satisfactorily complete the course may not pass with honors regardless of how well they perform when they do pass.) Students who score less than a 135 (or who have failed to qualify for the final exam) will receive an Unsatisfactory/Incomplete (UI) grade for the course and will have to repeat it successfully in order to graduate.

5. Professor Panagakis’ Bar Exam Skills Sessions (see Calendar for Dates and Times)

Professor Panagakis will conduct bar skills sessions that seek to help you improve your test-taking skills for the bar exam. Although you will not receive a direct grade from that portion of the class (other than Professor Panagakis’ graded quizzes/assignments), attendance is mandatory for satisfactory completion of the course.

Professor Panagakis will also be available in class for additional bar skills and reviews every other Saturday from 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm. These sessions are “optional.” (See **Course Calendar for dates**)

6. Quizzes and Exams

- A. All quizzes and exams shall be administered using Examsoft and the Themis portal.
- B. All students taking quizzes and exams shall be required to **bring compatible portable devices for all quizzes and exams.**

7. Other Relevant Course Policies

- A. There will be a double class on the Wednesday following a section final exam in order to go over common mistakes made on the section final exam. These classes, dates as noted on the Comp calendar, will be held live in class from 2:30 pm – 4:00

pm (day) and 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm (night). *Attendance is mandatory.* The purpose of these exam reviews is to correct any mistakes and misapplications of the law, so they are not repeated on the course MBE final exam and on the bar exam.

- B. Students may still review their exams only if they make a request in writing to the *Professor who taught the applicable section* within seven (7) days after receiving your final scores from that section. All exam reviews will be conducted live, on campus, with the professor present. Some professors may choose to conduct a single group review in lieu of multiple meetings with individual students.
- C. On multiple choice exams and quizzes, grades will be changed only if the student can show a demonstrable mistake made in scoring. Please note that students sometimes mark two answers, and sometimes fail to properly erase an answer before choosing another one. These are incorrect answers and will not be changed. The bubble sheet (paper or electronic) must clearly show one answer chosen – the correct answer – for your score to be changed. This means that, just like on the bar exam, you must be diligent in properly erasing incorrectly marked answers. You should also know that the scanner we use to correct the bubble sheets is extremely accurate. The odds of there being a scanning error are miniscule.
- D. Any questions about missing or incorrect quizzes and exams should be directed to Laura Lussier in the front office: lussier@mslaw.edu. Once Laura receives your request, she will pull the appropriate materials and check for any internal mistakes. This usually addresses the issue. If such does not address the issue, she will direct you to *the professor who taught the section*, with whom you should deal in attempting to address the situation. The failure to raise an issue with a quiz or exam score, by making an email request to Laura Lussier, within seven (7) days after the final score sheet for the particular section is delivered results in a waiver of the right to question the accuracy of the scores.
- E. **Once you fail a fourth (4th) section of the course, you are disqualified from taking the course final exam and must repeat the course the next time it is offered. After failing four (4) sections, you may continue to attend classes and take section quizzes, but you will not be allowed to take the section final exams and the final, 200-question, six-hour course final exam.**
- F. As you can see, it is important that you take this course seriously from the beginning. Failing a section early on puts you “behind the eight ball” from the start. If you are struggling at the beginning of the course, please contact Professor Dimitriadis (amyd@mslaw.edu) immediately to ask for advice on how to succeed. Please do not let deficiencies linger; if you do, it may soon be too late to do anything about it.
- G. Audits of Comparison are not permitted unless you are a student who: (1) has already passed the course, (2) has graduated, and (3) desire to retake the course to help you pass the bar exam.

Student

Comparison - Grade Sheet

FLINTSTONE, FRED	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6*	Q7*	Best 3	x 1/3	Final	Q&F	EC	Scores
	5-point Scale									200-point			
Criminal Law	1	1	5	2	4	1	5	14	4.7	28	33	5	P 136
Torts	2	4	3	1	1	4	5	13	4.3	33	37	3	P 152
Contracts	2	2	3	2	1	1	5	10	3.3	31	34	4	P 141
Evidence	5	5	0	2	5	5	5	15	5.0	24	29	5	F 121
Property	1	0	1	4	3	3	5	12	4.0	19	23	5	F 97
Constitutional Law	4	1	1	2	2	1	5	11	3.7	27	31	5	F 128
Civil Procedure	2	3	3	2	0	5	5	13	4.3	30	34	5	P 142
* Reserved for optional quizzes by professor										Average		(50%)	131
										Course Final		(50%)	
										Final Score			66

This student passed the minimum 4/7 sections but did not meet the requisite average of 135. This student does not qualify for the final and will need to repeat the course.

Comparison - Grade Sheet

Student

BRADY, TOM

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6* Q7* Best 3 x 1/3 Final Q&F EC

Scores

5-point Scale

200-point

Criminal Law	2	3	5	3	3	1	5	13	4.3	30	34	5	P	142
Torts	5	4	1	4	1	0	5	14	4.7	36	41	4	P	167
Contracts	3	4	3	4	1	2	5	13	4.3	29	33	5	P	138
Evidence	5	5	0	1	5	5	3	15	5.0	31	36	5	P	149
Property	3	4	2	5	5	5	5	15	5.0	28	33	5	P	137
Constitutional Law	5	2	2	5	2	3	5	15	5.0	23	28	5	F	117
Civil Procedure	4	5	3	1	2	5	5	15	5.0	26	31	4	F	128

* Reserved for optional quizzes by professor

Average

(50%)

140

Course Final

(50%)

122

Final Score

131

The student passed 5/7 sections and met the requisite average of at least 135 by averaging 140 points per section. However, the student did not achieve enough points on the final exam and ended with 131 points. The student will need to repeat the course.

Student

Comparison - Grade Sheet

GINSBURG, RUTH BADER

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6* Q7* Best 3 x 1/3 Final Q&F EC

5-point Scale

Scores

200-point

Criminal Law

5 1 5 3 5 0 5 15 5.0 33 38 5

157

P

Torts

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 15 5.0 37 42 5

173

P

Contracts

4 4 3 2 1 1 5 13 4.3 35 39 5

162

P

Evidence

5 5 2 4 5 1 5 15 5.0 32 37 5

153

P

Property

4 4 2 1 4 5 5 14 4.7 37 42 5

172

P

Constitutional Law

2 4 2 3 3 0 5 12 4.0 34 38 5

157

P

Civil Procedure

5 4 4 3 4 4 5 14 4.7 35 40 5

164

P

* Reserved for optional quizzes by professor

Average

(50%)

163

Course Final

(50%)

147

Final Score

155

This student passed 7/7 sections, thus also achieving the requisite 135 average for the sections. The student also achieved a passing score on the course final exam, ending with a 155 course score, passing with Honors.

Pass