



Advanced Civil Procedure: Discovery Practice
Fall 2025 Course Syllabus
Section 541: Tuesday-Thursday 4:30 pm – 5:50 pm

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Course Description: This course focuses on improving and strengthening students' understanding and mastery of the federal rules of civil procedure and evidence, with a particular emphasis on federal discovery practice. Students will explore the world of pretrial litigation, and through a number of simulated practices, will draft, defend, and oppose discovery requests.

Course Overview: This course is intended to be an interactive and hands-on practical skills course. You will complete in class and home assignments during the semester, on which you will receive personal feedback. There will be graded and ungraded weekly exercises. You will also have a written midterm exam and final oral arguments.

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

50 Points (5) Drafting Exercises (10 points each)
50 Points (5) Simulated Exercises (10 points each)
25 Points (1) Midterm
25 Points (1) Draft Motion with Memorandum
50 Points (1) Final Motion with Memorandum
100 Points (1) Oral Argument

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for each and every class. Arriving late to class more than once will result in an absence. 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.

Exceptional Circumstances

I am aware that exceptional circumstances sometimes occur which may affect your attendance, performance, or preparation in the class. Please consult with me if you are experiencing difficulties with meeting your obligations in this class.

Required Books: **Pretrial Litigation, Seventh Edition (West Academic/Dessem) ISBN:**
9781647084660

Current editions ONLY!

eBooks acceptable (and cheaper) if you can access them while in class.

Save 15% on both print and eBooks with discount code WAMC at checkout on westacademic.com

Resources Online: www.uscourts.gov/forms/civil-forms
law.cornell.edu/rules
law.cornell.edu/rules/frcp
law.cornell.edu/rules/fre

Privacy Concerns: Subject to federal, state, local, and/or MSLAW administration orders, Advanced Civil Procedure: Discovery Practice for Fall 2025 will be in-person and on campus with no remote option. Unless otherwise announced or mandated, tests and exams will be in-person for all students.

You are required to stay home if you suspect that you have been exposed to any virus, if you have an elevated temperature, or you are feeling ill/displaying unusual symptoms. If your absence is mandated by illness, we will make arrangements for you to make up any missed work.

No one will be penalized for taking responsible action to protect themselves and our community.

Regardless of your preference and personal opinions, we will all treat our colleagues with respect for their personal choices and their individual circumstances.

During the Fall 2025 semester, we will be using various online platforms in class, including Zoom (for conferencing only), TWEN (for class assignments), and Examsoft with AI technology (for quizzes, midterms, and exams). If you have any concerns with using their features, I suggest you contact IT as early as possible to resolve all tech and software issues. No exceptions will be made but for approved medical accommodations.

Classroom Procedure:

We will be following these steps for the entirety of the semester:

1. Students may bring with them a Wi-Fi-enabled device with a large enough screen to read assignments (smartphone/tablet/laptop) in order to participate in class. We will be using TWEN for handouts and assignments. **If you are unable to bring a device with you to class, please email me in advance so I can arrange to make paper copies. Unless I hear from you, I will not be making unnecessary paper copies.**
2. All assignments will be uploaded to TWEN during class and each student will be responsible for accessing and retrieving them from TWEN. Thus, unless you email me in advance for paper copies, you must bring a device enabling you to access and view the material online on TWEN.

3. All assignments are due via TWEN or email (as instructed for each) to be received prior to the start of class time on their due date. If you have been specifically instructed to handwrite an assignment, then you must do so but then scan the handwritten assignment and submit it before the start of class on the due date.
4. Unless otherwise instructed in class or via email, all tests and exams will be submitted through Examsoft so students must have a compatible device for all in-person tests/exams.

If you have not already, you should make arrangements to download and test the software in the beginning of the semester rather than wait until the night before an exam. If you do not have a compatible device, you should consult with IT in order to determine how best to proceed. The schedule below indicates with an **asterisk*** on which days you will need to bring/use your Examsoft-compatible device for in-class quiz or exam. For all classes without an asterisk, you will need a Wi-Fi-enabled device or email me for paper copies.

5. I expect Advanced Civil Procedure: Discovery Practice students to respectfully comply with all requirements of the MSLAW Student Handbook and Honor Code, as well as state and federal guidelines, and conduct yourselves in a manner befitting law students, future lawyers, and community leaders. I expect Advanced Civil Procedure: Discovery Practice students to fully respect everyone's personal preferences without comment or derision. If you suspect someone is violating the rules mandated by the administration, you should bring this to my attention, rather than attempt to address this yourself.
6. I will be communicating with you via TWEN regularly. I urge you to make it a habit to check your email frequently because there could be last minute changes of which you will not be aware unless you check your email. If you do not check the email attached to your TWEN account, I suggest you change your TWEN settings to add your primary email account.

OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

DATE	READING AND ASSIGNMENTS	TOPICS
Tuesday 08/19	Pretrial Litigation: Chapters 1 &15	Introduction to Civil Litigation and Federal Discovery Practice
Thursday 08/21	Pretrial Litigation: Chapters 1 &15	Civil Litigation and Federal Discovery Practice

Tuesday 08/26	Pretrial Litigation: Chapters 2-3 FRCP 3, 11	Attorney/Client Pretrial Planning
Thursday 08/28	Client Interview Outline Due	Client Interviews 10 Points
Tuesday 09/02	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 4 FRCP 4,8,9,10	Complaint
Thursday 09/04	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 4 FRCP 4,8,9,10	Complaint Due 10 Points
Tuesday 09/09	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 5 FRCP 12,13,14	Responses to Complaint
Thursday 09/11	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 5 FRCP 12,13,14	Responses to Complaint Due 10 Points
Tuesday 09/16	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 6 FRCP 26,37	Scope of Discovery Dissecting the Rules
Thursday 09/18	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 6 FRCP 26,37	Scope of Discovery
Tuesday 09/23	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 7 FRCP 33	Interrogatories Dissecting the Rules
Thursday 09/25	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 7 FRCP 33	Interrogatories Due 10 Points
Tuesday 09/30	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 8 FRCP 30,31	Depositions Dissecting the Rules
Thursday 10/02	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 8 FRCP 30,31	Deposition Assignment 10 Points
Tuesday 10/07		Deposition Assignment 10 Points
Thursday 10/09		NO CLASS
Tuesday 10/14*		MIDTERM 25 Points
Thursday 10/16	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 9 FRCP 34,35,36	Requests for Production, Admissions, Examination Dissecting the Rules

Tuesday 10/21	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 9 FRCP 34,35,36	Requests for Production Due 10 Points
Thursday 10/23	Pretrial Litigation: Chapters 10-11 FRCP 6,7,16,41,55	Court Intervention Motion Strategy Dissecting the Rules
Tuesday 10/28	Pretrial Litigation: Chapters 10-11 FRCP 6,7,16,41,55	Motion to Compel 10 Points
Thursday 10/30	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 12 FRCP 56	Summary Judgment Dissecting the Rules
Tuesday 11/04	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 12 FRCP 56	Summary Judgment
Thursday 11/06		Introduction and Overview of Persuasive Memos
Tuesday 11/11		DRAFT MOTION AND DRAFT MEMO DUE 25 Points
Thursday 11/13		Motions in Limine 10 Points
Tuesday 11/18		FINAL MOTION AND FINAL MEMO DUE 50 Points
Thursday 11/20	Pretrial Litigation: Chapter 13-14	ADR Assignment 10 Points
Tuesday 11/25		FINAL ARGUMENTS 100 Points
Thursday 11/27	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING DAY

**“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”
Aristotle**

“I hear, I forget. I see, I remember. I do, I understand.” – Confucius

**“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.”
– Benjamin Franklin**