



**Case Preparation Introduction
Fall 2025 Course Syllabus
Section 901: Tuesday-Thursday 2:30 pm – 3:50 pm**

Instructor: Amy Dimitriadis
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Course Description: This course focuses on improving and strengthening students' pretrial and trial advocacy skills. Students will explore the world of pretrial litigation, and through a number of written and oral practices, will learn the artful skill of persuasion.

Course Overview: This course is intended to be an interactive and hands-on practical skills course. The course will include lectures and demonstrations, and students will complete in class and home assignments during the semester, on which you will receive personal feedback. There will be graded and ungraded exercises. You will also have a written midterm exam and final oral arguments. The goal is to introduce students to basic trial advocacy skills in preparation for advanced advocacy courses.

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

80 Points (8) Drafting Exercises (10 points each)
20 Points (1) Midterm Assignment
100 Points (1) Trial Binder and Final Arguments

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: **Materials Provided by Professor**

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, Case Preparation Intro 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 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 Case Preparation Intro 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 Case Preparation Intro 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	“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.” Aristotle	Introduction to Case Preparation
Thursday 08/21	Materials Provided on TWEN	Assignment of Fact Pattern
Tuesday 08/26	Materials Provided on TWEN	Theory of Case (P & D) Themes
Thursday 08/28	Materials Provided on TWEN	Theory of Case (P & D) Themes
Tuesday 09/02	Materials Provided on TWEN	Exhibits
Thursday 09/04	Materials Provided on TWEN	Exhibits
Tuesday 09/09	Materials Provided on TWEN	Opening Statements
Thursday 09/11	Materials Provided on TWEN	Opening Statements
Tuesday 09/16	Materials Provided on TWEN	Motions in Limine
Thursday 09/18	Materials Provided on TWEN	Motions in Limine
Tuesday 09/23	Materials Provided on TWEN	Lay Witness Testimony
Thursday 09/25	Materials Provided on TWEN	Lay Witness Testimony
Tuesday 09/30	Materials Provided on TWEN	Expert Witness Testimony
Thursday 10/02	Materials Provided on TWEN	Expert Witness Testimony

Tuesday 10/07*	Materials Provided on TWEN	Midterm Assignment
Thursday 10/09		NO CLASS
Tuesday 10/14	Materials Provided on TWEN	Admitting Evidence
Thursday 10/16	Materials Provided on TWEN	Admitting Evidence
Tuesday 10/21	Materials Provided on TWEN	Direct Examinations
Thursday 10/23	Materials Provided on TWEN	Direct Examinations
Tuesday 10/28	Materials Provided on TWEN	Cross Examinations
Thursday 10/30	Materials Provided on TWEN	Cross Examinations
Tuesday 11/04	Materials Provided on TWEN	Impeachments
Thursday 11/06	Materials Provided on TWEN	Impeachments
Tuesday 11/11	Materials Provided on TWEN	Objections
Thursday 11/13	Materials Provided on TWEN	Objections
Tuesday 11/18	Materials Provided on TWEN	Closing Arguments
Thursday 11/20	Materials Provided on TWEN	Closing Arguments
Tuesday 11/25	Trial Binder Due	FINAL ARGUMENTS
Thursday 11/27	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING DAY