Introduction to the Study of Law

Fall 2022

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Class Schedule: 9:00-11:30, August 3
10:00-11:00, Small Groups 1:00-3:00, August 4
9:00-11:30 August 5
10:15-12:15, 2:30-4:30, August 8
9:00-11:00, Small Groups 11:15-1:45, August 10
10:00-12:00, 2:15-4:00, August 11

All class sessions meet in Room A255.

Required Texts: *What Every Law Student Really Needs to Know* by Tracey E. George and Suzanna Sherry, Wolters Kluwer (3d ed. 2020).

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course aims to prepare you for your upcoming law school experience. It will provide information on what to expect in law school, review the fundamentals of the legal system, introduce legal analysis skills, and preview various techniques, concepts, and strategies to assist your law school studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, you should be able to

1. Identify types and sources of law
2. Read and summarize a judicial opinion
3. Understand core concepts used in legal analysis
4. Begin synthesizing rules and engaging in legal analysis

ASSIGNMENTS: The assignments indicated in your Class Schedule are tentative; I will notify you of any changes. Assignments due "in class" must be ready at the beginning of the indicated class.

GRADING: This course is Pass/Fail, and your grade will be based on the final exam. The exam is scheduled for Friday, August 12 at 9:30 am. It will contain multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam will be administered in our classroom.

PROFESSIONALISM: In the context of this class, professional conduct requires the following:

- **E-mail:** You must check your **law school e-mail** regularly for announcements, assignments, and other information related to your class. Please note that I frequently use email to communicate with my students.

- **Class Attendance:** You should be present, on time, and prepared. We have limited time together, so each class period will be critical to your success in the course. Please notify me if you will be unable to attend any class.

- **Technology:**

  In-Person Technology Use
  Many portions of our class time will not require laptops or tablets. Plan to take notes by hand and engage in our class discussions without a screen.

  You may not record or photograph any portion of the class without my prior approval. You should not use a cell phone during class for any purpose.

- **COVID Guidance:**

  The healthinfo.ua.edu website continues to provide the campus community with information and updates about COVID-19 guidance and resources.

ADA POLICY: Students who require disability accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (www.ods.ua.edu). Students who require accommodations related to pregnancy or parental status should contact the Title IX Office (https://uact.ua.edu/information/pregnancy). Approved accommodations will be sent to the Registrar's Office, which will handle the provision of all accommodations within the Law School.

It is important that you receive any accommodations to which you are entitled to make the course accessible. To accomplish this important purpose and to maintain your confidentiality, please address your questions regarding accommodations to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Grace Lee. You can reach her by email at glee@law.ua.edu

Tentative Class Schedule and Assignments

Class Meeting	Discussion Topics	Assignments (due in class)
Wednesday, 8/3 9:00-11:30	Thinking Like a Lawyer How to Approach Cases and Statutes	Pages 1-24 *Dewberry* assignment
Thursday, 8/4 10:00-11:00	Anatomy of an Opinion Briefing Cases Holdings and Rules	Pages 25-44 Read *Barfield v. Commerce Bank*
Small Groups (Group A 1:00-2:00, Group B 2:00-3:00)	Working on Case Briefs Case Briefs to Outlines	Bring *Barfield* case brief to afternoon session. After class: Email due to ahead@law.ua.edu
Friday, 8/5 9:00-11:30	Sources, Types, and Weight of Authority Litigation Timeline and Terminology Parsing a Statute	Pages 61-102
Monday, 8/8 10:15-12:15	Approaching Your Classes: Case Briefs and Outlines	Pages 45-60, 103-21, 131-35
2:30-4:30	Foundational Concepts Beginning Rule Synthesis	

Class Meeting	Discussion Topics	Assignments (due in class)
Tuesday, 8/9 9:00-11:00 Small Groups (11:15-12:30; 12:30-1:45)	Synthesizing Useful Rules Communicating Legal Analysis	Read case packet. Identify the holding, the reasoning, and a rule from each case Bring notes on case packet to afternoon session.
Thursday, 8/11 10:00-12:00 2:15-4:00	Communicating Legal Analysis Cont'd. Study Skills: Class Prep to Exam Prep Panel Discussion with 2Ls and 3Ls Review Session for Exam	Bring your draft weekly study schedule
Friday, 8/12 9:30-10:30	Exam	