Fall Semester 2009

560A – Legal Analysis and Writing I (1 unit)
Section 1: Monday, 3:00 p.m.- 4:50 p.m., Room 203

Course Description

An introductory course designed for the beginning law student that covers a basic overview of the American legal system, the case method of legal study, and objective legal memorandum writing. Emphasis is placed on the development of skills essential to the effective study and practice of law, including case briefing, case synthesis, legal analysis, and legal writing.

Course Procedures

TWEN:

TWEN will serve as our official course management system. Through TWEN, I will establish the class e-mail list and post various class materials.

E-mail Correspondence:

E-mail is not a means by which to discuss substantive issues related to the class with me. If you have a question about substantive class issues (e.g. the meaning of cases, rules, etc.), or about personal issues or concerns, please come to see me during my office hours or by appointment. Otherwise, I try to respond to email within 24 hours of receipt, except on weekends.

Disability Accommodations:

Students who require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Assistant Dean of Students, Vitonio San Juan at: sanjuanv@ulv.edu or (909) 460-2023.

Attendance Policy:

To receive credit for this class, you may only miss a total 1.6 classes. Simply, you may only miss 1 class completely and slightly more than \( \frac{1}{2} \) of another class before you will be excluded from the class completely. If you are late or unprepared for any class, then I reserve the right to mark you late or absent at my discretion.
If you would like to make a personal tape recording of my class, while you are attending it, please ask for permission.

**Required Texts**


The *Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (Eighteenth ed. 2005)


**Suggested Text:**


*Black’s Law Dictionary* (any edition)

**Required Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Writing Diagnostic, Rule Document (Ungraded - Feedback Provided)** | **Week 1:** Section 1, Monday, August 17, 2009  
Section 2, Thursday, August 20, 2009  
Section 3, Monday, August 17, 2009  
Section 4, Wednesday, August 19, 2009  
Section 5, Wednesday, August 19, 2009  
Section 6, Thursday, August 20, 2009 |
| **Case Brief (Ungraded – Feedback Provided)** | **Week 2:** Section 1, Monday, August 24, 2009  
Section 2, Thursday, August 27, 2009  
Section 3, Monday, August 24, 2009  
Section 4, Wednesday, August 26, 2009  
Section 5, Wednesday, August 26, 2009  
Section 6, Thursday, August 27, 2009 |
| **Case Analysis Chart or Outline (Ungraded - Feedback Provided)** | **Week 3:** Section 1, Monday, August 31  
Section 2, Thursday, September 3  
Section 3, Monday, August 31  
Section 4, Wednesday, September 2  
Section 5, Wednesday, September 2  
Section 6, Thursday, September 3 |
| **Synthesis Assignment (20%)** | **Week 5:** All Sections Due  
Thursday, September 17 by 2:50pm |
### Analysis Assignment (20%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7: All Sections Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 1 by 2:50pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Objective Closed Universe Memorandum (60%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9: All Sections Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 16 by 2:50pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Readings Schedule

The schedule that follows contains specific reading assignments for each class. Much of the reading is background information that I will not cover specifically in class. However, you will get the most out of class and improve your performance on legal writing assignments if you do the reading in advance of each class, as we will do in-class exercises directly related to and/or involving the reading. Being prepared to fully engage with the course materials in each class is a significant component of your participation grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Week 1: August 17-21**  
Review of Case Briefing and Introduction to Legal Reasoning | pp. 3-8; p. 21 (beginning at §2.5)-44; Chapter 14, pp. 139-153  
The Bluebook: pp. 3-4 (B1, B3 & B4.1), p. 6 (B5.1); Rules 10 & 10.1 (pp. 79-81) | Case Brief Assignment Distributed  
Signed Rule Document and Writing Diagnostic Assignment Due |
| **Week 2: August 24-28**  
Introduction to the Objective Memorandum; Pre-writing for Synthesis and Rule Application | pp. 47-52; 53-54 (excluding §6.2); pp. 55 (§6.3 only); pp. 65-70; Chapter 9, pp. 77-88  
The Bluebook: pp. 6-7 (B5.1.1); Rule 10.2 (pp. 81-86); Rule 10.3.2 (pp. 87-88)  
**Case:** State v. Hightower, 116 So.2d 699 (La. 1959) | Case Brief Assignment Due  
Outlining Assignment Distributed |
| **Week 3: August 31-September 4**  
Synthesizing the Rule of Law | pp. 9-21 (stop at §2.5); pp. 92 (beginning at §10.2)-94(stop at Rule Application); pp. 96-97 (§10.4.2 only); Chapter 11, pp. 103-113; Chapter 12, pp. 113-124  
The Bluebook: Nothing Assigned | Outlining Assignment Due  
Synthesis Assignment Distributed |
| Week 4:  
*September 7-11  
(Note: Monday class will meet on Wednesday, 9/9)  
Drafting Rule Paragraphs; Rule Development; Rule Explanation; Introduction to Legal Analysis | No Class Monday-Labor Day  
Chapter 15, pp. 153-170; Chapter 16, pp. 171-193  
*The Bluebook: Nothing Assigned* |
|---|---|
| Week 5:  
*September 14-18  
Drafting Analysis Paragraphs; Linking Facts and Law; Reasoning by Analogy* | Chapter 17, pp. 193-203  
*The Bluebook: pp. 7-8 (B5.1.2), Rule 3.2 (pp. 59-61)* |
| | *Synthesis Assignment Due*  
*Analysis Assignment Distributed* |
| Week 6:  
*September 21-25  
Organizing the Discussion Section; Drafting the Statement of the Facts* | Chapter 18, pp. 205-215, Appendix C (Statement of the Facts)  
*The Bluebook: pp. 8-10 (B5.1.3), Rules 10.4 & 10.5 (pp. 89-91)* |
| | *Objective Closed Universe Memo Assignment Distributed* |
| Week 7:  
*September 28-October 2  
Drafting Issue Statements, Brief Answers and Formal Conclusions* | Appendix C (Issue Statements/Questions Presented, Brief Answers and Formal Conclusions)  
*The Bluebook: pp. 11-13 (B5.2 & B5.3)* |
| | *Analysis Assignment Due* |
| Week 8:  
*October 5-9  
Objective Memorandum Questions; Revising Editing and Proofreading; Bluebook Wrap-Up* | pp. 215-238; Chapter 20, pp. 239-264  
*The Bluebook: Rules 6-9, pp. 72-78* |
| | *Objective Closed Universe Memo Assignment Due: Friday, October 16, 2009* |
| Week 9 | No Legal Writing Class  
Legal Research Begins this Week and continues through Week 15 |
ATTENTION: *I reserve the right to modify, add or delete items from the readings schedule based on time considerations and learning progress.*