

**COURSE OVERVIEW**  
Legal Research and Writing, Section 2  
Professor Kristi Running  
Fall 2013-Spring 2014

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

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**OVERVIEW**

You are responsible for knowing the information contained in this syllabus. This includes the requirements of the honor code, the format for assignments, the deadline requirements, and everything else. If you have any questions or if there is anything in here you do not fully understand, please see me.

This is a five-credit course covering two semesters. The final grade will be assigned at the end of spring semester.

**Fall Semester:** Students will complete several short legal reasoning and analysis assignments, legal research assignments, citation exercises, self-assessments, a “closed” (or unresearched) full legal memorandum, and an “open” (or researched) graded legal memorandum assignment during the fall semester.

**Spring Semester:** Students will complete two major graded assignments during the spring semester: (1) a persuasive trial brief in support of a motion, and (2) an appellate brief. In conjunction with the appellate brief, each student will prepare and present an oral argument.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

**Grading:** Your shorter assignments will be evaluated on the following scale: + (really good); ✓ (pretty good); or – (please try again). At least a satisfactory (or pretty good) completion of these minor assignments is mandatory to pass the course.

Your final grade will be calculated using the following formula:

Open Memorandum	20%
Brief in Support of a Motion	25%
Appellate Brief	45%
Professionalism	10%

**Professionalism:** The professionalism grade for the class includes participation and effort; attendance, punctuality, and preparedness for class and conferences; behavior and attitude; and ethics. You will begin each semester with an A and lose one grade level for each late paper, missed conference, or other professionalism issue.

**Class Attendance:** You are expected to attend class regularly. You are allowed two absences per semester. More than two absences in a semester may result in a reduction of your final grade, and substantial absences may result in a further grade reduction.

**Deadlines:** Deadlines are extremely important in the practice of law and, therefore, they are strictly adhered to in this class. Due dates and times for all assignments are provided on the assignment schedule. In law school, as well as in law practice, problems can occur, so be sure to give yourself sufficient time to prepare your assignment.

Late papers will be marked down as follows:

Up to 1 hour late	1 grade level (B- becomes C+)
1–2 hours late	2 grade levels (B- becomes C)
2–24 hours late	Full letter grade (B- becomes C-)
24–48 hours late	Another full letter grade (B- becomes D-)
More than 48 hours	Assignment will not be accepted unless prior arrangements are made

**Failure to complete a major assignment (the open memorandum, the persuasive brief, or the appellate brief) will result in an “F” for the entire course.**

Extensions of time for assignments will not be granted absent unforeseeable and compelling circumstances. Computer difficulties are always foreseeable.

**Format for Assignments:** Document formats are controlled in the practice of law by court rules, and courts can and do refuse to accept documents that do not comply with their strict rules. Therefore, format requirements are strictly adhered to in this class.

All assignments must be typed on 8 1/2” by 11” white paper, double-spaced, with a 1” margin on the top, bottom, and each side. Page numbers must be centered in the bottom margin. All assignments must be typed in Times New Roman font, 12-point type. Do not justify the right margin.

Generally, there will be page limitations for assignments. Limit means maximum allowable, not minimum required, and I will ignore any material exceeding the limitation. This may result in a grade reduction.

The three graded assignments must have a cover page that contains, centered on the page from top to bottom and left to right: (1) the title of the assignment; (2) your LRW number (I will tell you how to obtain this when the time is appropriate); (3) your subsection identifier (2A or 2B); and (4) the due date of the assignment. Do not place your name on any of the pages of your graded assignments, including the cover page.

The shorter assignments do not need a cover page. For these, place your name in the top right-hand corner of the first page, followed by your subsection identifier (2A or 2B).

Unless I specify otherwise, citations within assignments must conform to the requirements of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et al. eds., 19th ed. 2010). This will not be necessary on the early assignments; I will let you know when you must begin including formal citation format.

**Submission of Assignments:** For each graded assignment, students will submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy via TWEN. The hard copy will be the official copy for purposes of applying the automatic late penalties described above. For the ungraded assignments, submit only a hard copy.

Unless I instruct you otherwise, turn in hard copies of your papers in the front office. The front office clock is the official timepiece for hard copies. Even though the front office is open during normal business hours only, late penalties will continue to accumulate even when the front office is closed.

Submit electronic copies of your graded assignment via the assignment drop box on TWEN. TWEN will timestamp your submission. If you experience technical difficulties, support staff is available to assist you at 1-800-486-4876. Please do not contact me for technical assistance as it may jeopardize the anonymity of your submission.

## **CLASS POLICIES**

**Class management:** Attorneys frequently need to take handwritten notes in situations where the use of a laptop is not feasible. Therefore, we will develop this skill in this class. You are not permitted to use laptops during class sessions unless I specifically instruct otherwise for a particular session.

**Conferences:** There will be mandatory conferences, either with me or with a teaching assistant on most of the assignments. This means you must attend them at the scheduled time. If an unforeseeable event requires you to miss a scheduled conference, you are responsible for rescheduling them at my or the teaching assistant's convenience.

**Communication:** Notices regarding assignments, classes, and changes will be posted on my door and/or sent by e-mail. Students are responsible for checking my door and their e-mail on a regular basis, but I will try to keep this to a minimum.

### **Disability Support Services Reasonable Accommodations Statement**

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. Students should meet with Disability Support Services (DSS) by the end of the first week of class to assess if any accommodations are needed for courses and/or examinations. All accommodation requests are then submitted by DSS to Dean Dodge for final approval. DSS serves as the sole evaluator of medical documentation and determines reasonable accommodations on a per semester basis. The College of Law does not have the authority to evaluate or grant disability accommodations without DSS first submitting a recommendation. You may contact DSS by:

- Visiting the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306
- Calling 208-885-6307
- Emailing [dss@uidaho.edu](mailto:dss@uidaho.edu)

It is ultimately the student's responsibility to seek a disability accommodation, and until an accommodation is approved by DSS and Dean Dodge, no student will be entitled to receive any accommodations. To learn more about DSS, visit its website at <http://www.uidaho.edu/studentaffairs/taap/dss>. Please review the College of Law Catalog and Student Handbook for more information on the disability accommodation process.

### **HONOR CODE**

Compliance with codes of professional ethics is a fundamental aspect of being a lawyer. Therefore, compliance with the honor code is a fundamental aspect of law school and this course. In particular, Sections II(A) and (B) of the College of Law Honor Code provide in relevant part:

- A. Unauthorized Assistance. In preparing work product to be submitted for credit, or to be submitted in connection with a law school academic activity, no student shall give, solicit or receive assistance from a source not expressly authorized by the instructor or supervisor of the activity. The burden shall be on the student to clarify with the instructor or supervisor whether any particular action or conduct violates this provision.
- B. Plagiarism. No student shall claim as his or her own original work the research, ideas or writing of another, or copy in whole or in part or in effect from the work of another, without clearly identifying it as the work of another. Paraphrasing without acknowledgment of authorship is a form of plagiarism. Paraphrasing is the close restatement of another's idea or using approximately the language of the original.

**Writing Assignments:** Although students in this section of the course are allowed to talk among themselves and with teaching assistants about all writing assignments undertaken in the course, students must not discuss the assignments with anyone outside of LRW Section 2, including family and including students in LRW Sections 1 and 3. For purposes of this course, it is an honor code violation for students to talk to anyone outside LRW Section 2 about the substance of any assignment. You are encouraged, of course, to talk to me and to the teaching assistants about any assignment.

Further, when it is time to put your thoughts on paper, you must work alone. For purposes of this course, it is an honor code violation for any student to request or allow any person (other than Section 2 teaching assistants and me), including any other first year-law students, to read, review, edit, proofread, listen to, or comment on any writing produced for any assignment, including drafts and outlines of assignments. This includes academic support and other faculty—absolutely no one except LRW Section 2 teaching assistants and me may look at anything you are writing for this class. At no time will this rule be modified.

Throughout the semester, we will cover appropriate use of citations to avoid plagiarism. Whenever you use the words or ideas of another writer, acknowledge the original source. Never copy from a court opinion, a law review article, or any other material without citing the source properly. If you use the exact words of a source, use quotation marks in addition to citing the source; if you put another writer's ideas into your own words, cite the source. If you are unsure about whether or not you are plagiarizing, or if you are having difficulties with an assignment, talk with me before turning in the assignment.

**Research Assignments:** During the fall semester you will be required to complete a series of research exercises, which the teaching assistants will assign. Each student must work alone on these exercises unless otherwise directed.