Fall 2018 Syllabus
Academic Skills Lab I (901 §§ 4&5)

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Room 117B, ILJLC
Office Hours: drop-in and by appointment

**Required Texts**
Other materials as posted on BBLearn.

**Course Description**
A required first-year course, Academic Skills Lab I focuses on helping students become effective, independent learners through an instructional approach that gives students many opportunities to develop and hone analytical and exam writing skills.

It involves completing written and oral exercises in case reading, briefing, analyzing, synthesizing, note taking, outlining, communicating and exam taking skills.

Finally, this course will help students improve time-management, productivity skills, and proper use of study aids.

**Course Objectives**
In this course, students will strive to:

I. Understand and master the course topics and concepts by advancing beyond basic memorization and recitation;
II. Engage the course material through critical reading, continuously refined legal analysis, and cumulative study efforts;
III. Champion success and a passion for excellence by setting and attaining goals through preparation, persistence, and precision;
IV. Apply the legal tools addressed in Academic Skills Lab I to prepare for this course and other first-year courses, and
V. Write effective analytical responses to complex fact patterns using proper essay-writing techniques.
Learning Objectives

1. Develop tools to manage your time and schedule to meet the demands of the law school environment.
2. Demonstrate an ability read and brief legal cases.
3. Create study aids for use in current first year courses (outlines, flow charts, etc.).
4. Assess use of other appropriate study materials/aids.
5. Identify and assess your strengths and weaknesses in regard to their learning style and study habits; determining how best leverage your preference to the study of law.
6. Utilize self-assessment to plan future efforts for improvement as law students.
7. Accurately identify relevant legal issues raised by a set of facts.
8. Accurately identify legal rules applicable to an issue raised by a set of facts, including conflicting rules and rules synthesized from multiple authorities pertinent to the particular issue.
9. Demonstrate an ability to communicate clear, structured and coherent arguments in writing styles commonly used on law school exams.

Course Structure

This course will consist of weekly reading assignments and weekly homework assignments. There is no final exam or final paper for the course. Given the lack of final exam or paper it is essential to complete all of the assigned readings and assignments in order to get the most benefit out of the course and to receive a passing grade.

Course Grade, Attendance, and Deadlines

This is a pass/fail course. To pass this course, you must:

- Attend class. An attendance sheet will be circulated in each class, and it is your responsibility to make sure your attendance is recorded. Absences from more than two scheduled classes will result in a failing grade.
- Meet individually with the instructor at least twice over the course of the semester. These meetings will be scheduled by the instructor.
- Complete each required homework assignment on time and submit it according to the class schedule. The assignments you submit in this class will be separate from your doctrinal classes. However, the expectation is that they will directly benefit your learning in your doctrinal classes. Missed and/or untimely homework assignments are grounds for a failing grade.
Credit Hours for Coursework

In accordance with ABA Standard 310, the College of Law awards one credit hour for experiences that are reasonably designed to involve 50 minutes of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week, or at least the equivalent amount of work for academic activities including simulation, field placement, clinical, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Academic Skills Lab I is a one-credit course. The Course requirements outlined above with respect to materials and assignments, in my professional judgement, are complex enough in nature that it is expected that the amount of out-of-class time it will take students to complete the assignments will meet the rule. The work you are required to do in this course will be complementary to, but independent of, the work you are required do in your fall semester doctrinal courses.

Civility

In any environment in which people gather to learn, it is essential that all members feel as free and safe as possible in their participation. To this end, it is expected that everyone in this course will be treated with mutual respect and civility, with an understanding that all of us (students, instructors, professors, guests, and teaching assistants) will be respectful and civil to one another in discussion, in action, in teaching, and in learning.

Should you feel our classroom interactions do not reflect an environment of civility and respect, you are encouraged to meet with your instructor during office hours to discuss your concern. Additional resources for expression of concern or requesting support include the College of Law Dean of Students (jdodge@uidaho.edu), the University Dean of Students office and staff (885-6757), the UI Counseling & Testing Center’s confidential services (885-6716), or the UI Office of Civil Rights & Investigations (885-4285).
Reasonable Accommodations

Center for Disability Access and Resources (CDAR) Reasonable Accommodations Statement:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. Ideally, students in Moscow and Boise should meet with CDAR 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 CDAR to Dean Dodge for final approval. CDAR 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 CDAR first submitting a recommendation. You may contact CDAR by:

- Calling 208-885-6307
- Emailing cdar@uidaho.edu

It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to seek a disability accommodation, and until an accommodation is approved by CDAR and Dean Dodge, no student will be entitled to receive any accommodations. To learn more about CDAR, visit its website at http://www.uidaho.edu/current-students/cdar. Moscow students may also visit CDAR in suite 127 of the Pitman Center. Please review the College of Law Catalog and Student Handbook for more information on the disability accommodation process.

Recording Class Sessions:

Students may not electronically record classes unless they have the express consent of the instructor, except where the Dean of Students has allowed recording as a disability accommodation pursuant to a recommendation by CDAR. Recording classes without the instructor’s express consent violates the Honor Code.

Students recording classes as a disability accommodation must follow procedures set down by CDAR.

Students who are unable to attend class for reasons of illness or other exigencies must receive permission from the instructor before classes are recorded on their behalf.

Contact the Law Library for recording equipment and information on recording procedures.

Because this is a participatory class in which you and your peers deserve the freedom to explore new ideas, try out new ways of learning, stumble in a supportive environment, and succeed, you may record class sessions only as a disability accommodation pursuant to a recommendation by CDAR.