

University of La Verne College of Law

Professor Melanie Calvert

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00 p.m.-2:45 p. m. and other hours by appointment

Fall Semester 2009

560A – Legal Analysis and Writing I (1 unit)

Section 2: Thursday, 3:00 p.m.-4:50 p.m., Room 204

Course Description

This introductory course offers the beginning law student 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.

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 ½ 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

Laurel Currie Oates and Anne Enquist, The Legal Writing Handbook: Analysis, Research and Writing (Aspen Publishers 4th ed. 2006)

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

Suggested Text:

Richard C. Wydick, Plain English for Lawyers (Carolina Academic Press, 5th ed. 2005)

Required Assignments

Assignment	Due Date
<i>Writing Diagnostic, Rule Document (Ungraded - Feedback Provided)</i>	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
<i>Case Brief (Ungraded - Feedback Provided)</i>	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
<i>Case Analysis Chart or Outline (Ungraded - Feedback Provided)</i>	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
<i>Synthesis Assignment (20%)</i>	Week 5: <i>All Sections Due</i> Thursday, September 17 by 2:50pm
<i>Analysis Assignment (20%)</i>	Week 7: <i>All Sections Due</i> Thursday, October 1 by 2:50pm
<i>Objective Closed Universe Memorandum (60%)</i>	Week 9: <i>All Sections Due</i> Friday, October 16 by 2:50pm

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.

Date	Reading	Assignments
Week 1: August 17-21 Review of Case Briefing and Introduction to Legal Reasoning	pp. 5-19 (excluding §2.1.3 and §2.1.4.), 27-28, 37-46 <i>The Bluebook</i> : pp. 3-4 (B1, B3 & B4.1), p. 6 (B5.1); Rules 10 & 10.1 (pp. 79-81)	<i>Case Brief Assignment Distributed</i> <i>Signed Rule Document and Writing Diagnostic Assignment Due</i>
Week 2: August 24-28 Introduction to the Objective Memorandum; Pre-writing for Synthesis and Rule Application	pp. 51-67 (Skim Sample Memos) <i>The Bluebook</i> : pp. 6-7 (B5.1.1); Rule 10.2 (pp. 81-86); Rule 10.3.2 (pp. 87-88) Case : <i>State v. Hightower</i> , 116 So .2d 699 (La. 1959)	<i>Case Brief Assignment Due</i> <i>Outlining Assignment Distributed</i>
Week 3: August 31-September 4 Synthesizing the Rule of Law	p. 112 (last paragraph on the page), pp. 113-119 (excluding §7.2) <i>The Bluebook</i> : Nothing Assigned	<i>Outlining Assignment Due</i> <i>Synthesis Assignment Distributed</i>
Week 4: September 7-11 Drafting Rule Paragraphs; Rule Development; Rule Explanation; Introduction to Legal Analysis	No Class Monday-Labor Day pp. 137(§7.7)-157 (excluding §7.9.3) <i>The Bluebook</i> : Nothing Assigned	
Week 5: September 14-18 Drafting Analysis Paragraphs; Linking Facts and Law; Reasoning by Analogy	pp. 157(starting at §7.9.3)-169 (excluding §7.10) <i>The Bluebook</i> : pp. 7-8 (B5.1.2), Rule	<i>Synthesis Assignment Due</i> <i>Analysis Assignment Distributed</i>

	3.2 (pp. 59-61)	
Week 6: September 21-25 <i>Organizing the Discussion Section; Drafting the Statement of the Facts</i>	pp. 133 (beginning at §7.6)-137(excluding §7.7), pp. 120 (beginning at §7.3)-126 (excluding §7.4) <i>The Bluebook:</i> pp. 8-10 (B5.1.3), Rules 10.4 & 10.5 (pp. 89-91)	<i>Objective Closed Universe Memo Assignment Distributed</i>
Week 7: September 28-October 2 <i>Drafting Issue Statements, Brief Answers and Formal Conclusions</i>	pp. 126 (beginning at §7.4)-133 (excluding §7.6), pp. 169 (beginning at §7.10)-171 <i>The Bluebook:</i> pp. 11-13 (B5.2 & B5.3)	<i>Analysis Assignment Due</i>
Week 8: October 5-9 <i>Objective Memorandum Questions; Revising Editing and Proofreading; Bluebook Wrap-Up</i>	pp. 171-191 <i>The Bluebook:</i> Rules 6-9, pp. 72-78	
Week 9	<i>No Legal Writing Class</i> <i>Legal Research Begins this Week and continues through Week 15</i>	<i>Objective Closed Universe Memo Assignment Due: Friday, October 16, 2009</i>

ATTENTION: I reserve the right to modify, add or delete items from the readings schedule based on time considerations and learning progress.