Legal Writing
LAW 5792, Section 117B
Spring 2017
Instructor: Timothy McLendon
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30pm
Holland Hall, Room 359

SYLLABUS

Professor:  Timothy McLendon
Office:  230 Bruton-Geer Hall (on the 2nd floor, in the office suite of the Center for Governmental Responsibility)
Telephone: (352) 273-0835
E-mail:  mclendon@law.ufl.edu

Office Hours:  Tuesdays, 9.30-10.30am
              Wednesdays, 10.00-11.30am
              Thursdays, 3.30-4.30pm
              and always by appointment.

                    The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (20th ed., 2016).
Additional Course Materials available on TWEN
(These books will also be used during spring 2018 for Appellate Advocacy.)


Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to teach you how to perform a rigorous analysis of a legal problem and express that analysis effectively in writing.

If you devote yourself to doing the best work you can, at the end of the semester you should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the U.S. legal system and how lawyers use law to advise clients and resolve legal problems;
• Apply ethical and professional obligations in crafting your written work;
• Identify legal issues affecting a client’s situation;
• Review facts and evaluate their relevance to a client’s legal situation;
• Analyze, interpret, and use statutes and case law to construct legal arguments;
• Apply legal rules to relevant client facts, analogizing and distinguishing precedent;
• Write an analysis of a legal issue predicting its outcome;
• Use effective organizational techniques;
• Write effective topic sentences, transitions, and paragraphs;
• Write precisely, clearly, and concisely;
• Use good grammar, syntax, punctuation, and document format;
• Use legal citation correctly; and
• Revise, edit, and proofread your legal writing.

Note: You will learn how to conduct legal research in a separate course. However, your research professor and I will collaborate, and one of your research exercises will require you to locate authority to use in a memorandum for my class. We will provide more details as they become relevant.

Grading:

There are two major writing assignments in this course: the first is due in mid-semester, while the final assignment is due towards the end of the semester. We will review and critique your submitted assignments, and you will usually have the opportunity to revise your assignments.

Your grade in the class will be determined primarily by your performance on your final writing assignment (WA #5). This assignment will serve as your ‘final exam’, and will offer you the opportunity to apply the skills you develop during the course.

Timely and satisfactory performance in all class activities and interim assignments is also required. Thus, 70% of your grade is based on the final written assignment, and 30% on your timely and satisfactory performance on all other written assignments, in-class quizzes, citation and grammar exercises, writing conferences, as well as on your class participation.

30% Participation (includes successful and timely completion of all assignments, in class exercises, and oral argument presentations)
70% Final Memo
Grade Values for Conversion:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
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<td>3.33</td>
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<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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The law school grading policy is available at: [http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/policies.shtml#9](http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/policies.shtml#9). Requirements for class attendance, and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with University of Florida policies that can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx).

**Policy regarding late submission of assignments:**
If you turn in a writing assignment, and have not received prior permission from me, the grade on THAT ASSIGNMENT will be lowered by one letter grade for every 24 hours the paper is late. Your FINAL GRADE will be lowered by one step (for example, B+ to B) for every 48 hours each paper is late. If you have an emergency, you must contact me at your earliest opportunity to obtain a special arrangement. There is no guarantee that I will allow any special arrangement or late submission of work absent a true emergency. This is the same professionalism you would be expected to provide to your law partner, a judge, or a client. Your professional career starts now.

If you have a religious holiday that falls on a class date or assignment due date, please contact me BEFORE that holiday to make arrangements. However, it is the University of Florida’s policy to accommodate religious holidays, and that policy will be honored.

**Attendance:**
We will take attendance during each class period. You are permitted to miss two classes without penalty. Your participation grade may be lowered due to additional unexcused absences. Missing more than six classes will result in a failing grade in the course. Excessive tardiness may also result in a grade penalty.

**Class Participation:**
Students are expected to complete all readings prior to class. Your readings are outlined in the syllabus. Additional readings may be assigned during the semester and posted to the TWEN site for this course.

Your participation grade is based on not only in class participation, but also on your successful completion of all assignments. Each assignment will be evaluated for completeness, accuracy and timeliness.
Other Policy Statements

A. Policy related to Make-up exams or other work.

The law school policy on delay in taking exams or submitting other assignments can be found at: http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/policies.shtml#12.

B. Statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center (tel: 352-392-8565, or online at: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the Dean Inman when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

C. Evaluations.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at: https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be informed when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at: https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

D. Honor Code.

Collaboration. You are bound strictly by the Honor Code. The work you do must be your own. Although you may discuss assignments with each other, you may not give answers to anyone, receive answers from anyone, read the work of another student (whether or not that student is enrolled in Legal Writing) or allow student to read your work. From time to time, this rule may be relaxed for a specific project, but I will let you know if, and exactly when, this is done. If you need help completing your assignments, please see me or contact your teaching assistant.

Plagiarism. Representing another’s work as your own constitutes plagiarism. Further, paraphrasing or quoting from a case, law review article, or any other source without properly acknowledging the source or without including quotation marks where such marks are appropriate constitutes plagiarism. Any paper evidencing plagiarism will receive a failing grade and will be referred to the law school’s Honor Committee. It is no defense to a charge of plagiarism to plead ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism or lack of intent to plagiarize.
E. **Format Requirements.**
All writing assignments this term should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and NOT right-justified so that the text has a jagged edge on the right (like the text in this document). Each page should be numbered (bottom, center), and all citations should comport with the rules of *The Bluebook* or *FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE* 9.800.

F. **Class Preparation.**
This course complies with ABA Standard 310. The required readings for this course, posted below, will require approximately 120 minutes of reading and preparation for each class session.

G. **Your Responsibilities to Other Classes.**
As an attorney you will be responsible for many clients at the same time. You must attend to the legal affairs of multiple clients at once, even when you have a big project for one client. Similarly, when you have an assignment for this course, you are still responsible for attending your other classes and completing the work for those classes on time.

**Overview of Major Assignment Deadlines (due via TWEN by 11.59pm on date listed):**

- **August 25**  Writing Assignment #1 [Case Description]
- **September 22**  Writing Assignment #2 [Global Introduction & Rule Explanation of 1st issue]
- **October 5**  Writing Assignment #3 [Full memorandum on 1st issue]
- **October 17**  Writing Assignment #4 [Global Intro & Rule Explanation of 2nd memorandum]
- **October 31**  Writing Assignment #5 [Discussion Section (Global Intro, RE & Rule Application)]
- **November 17**  Writing Assignment #6 [Full memorandum on 2nd issue]

In addition, you will need to complete 5 exercises in the Interactive Citation Workstation (ICW) on Lexis by the following deadlines:

- **September 12**  ICW exercise #1 (case names)
- **September 19**  ICW exercise #2 (case location)
- **September 26**  ICW exercise #3 (court & date)
- **October 10**  ICW exercise #5 (short corm)
- **October 19**  ICW exercise #13 (signals).

Note that these can be completed ahead of schedule, but they must be completed by 11.59pm on the deadline.
Class Schedule:
Classes will generally meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2.30pm in Room 359. Note: This is a tentative syllabus - assigned readings and assignment due dates may change.

Outline of the Course:

**Tuesday, August 15, 2017**
Read: Course syllabus & calendar; Edwards text, introduction & chapter 1; 1st Day Assignment on TWEN (DWI Issue)

Discuss: Welcome to Legal Writing; Overview of course; DWI Issue (Facts, Statute & Case)

**Thursday, August 17, 2017**
Read: Edwards text, chapter 2

Discuss: Overview of Legal Authority; Legal Reasoning

**Week of August 21-25, 2017**
Short TA group meetings with Prof. McLendon

**Tuesday, August 22, 2017**
Read: Edwards text, chapter 4

Discuss: Reading & interpreting cases; IRAC/T-FIHRR; first case for Memo # 2, *State v. Hunter*, 586 So. 2d 319 (Fla. 1991).

**Thursday, August 24, 2017**
Read: Edwards text, chapter 7 & FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE 9.800

Discuss: Using cases in legal analysis

**Friday, August 25, 2017, 11.59pm**
Writing Assignment #1 due (Case Description – *State v. Hunter*)
Tuesday, August 29, 2017
Read: Edwards text, chapter 5 & 6
Discuss: Synthesizing rules from several cases

Thursday, August 31, 2017
Read: Materials provided
Discuss: Using BaRAC

Tuesday, September 5, 2017
Read: Bluebook, pp. 1-13 (through B.10.1.3), and Edwards text, chapter 14
Discuss: Introduction to citation

Thursday, September 7, 2017
Read: Materials provided for September 7
Discuss: Introducing the first issue

Tuesday, September 12, 2017  No Class
ICW Exercise #1 – completed by 11.59pm

Thursday, September 14, 2017  No Class

Friday, September 15, 2017
Attend Moot Court Final Four Competition before Florida Supreme Court justices.
Time TBA
Write and submit to me by e-mail a 150-200 word evaluation of the Moot Court Final Four Competition (due by 11.59pm).

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
ICW Exercise #2 – completed by 11.59pm
Read: Edwards text, chapter 9
Discuss: Global introduction & rule explanation
Thursday, September 21, 2017
Discuss: Rule application

Friday, September 22, 2017, 11.59pm
Writing Assignment #2 due (Global Introduction & Rule Explanation of 1st issue)

Tuesday, September 26, 2017
ICW Exercise #3 – completed by 11.59pm
Read: *Bluebook*, pp. 1-13, 78-79, 117; review Edwards text, chapter 14
Discuss: Thesis sentences; Citations (signals & short form cites)

Thursday, September 28, 2017
Read: Edwards text, chapter 13
Discuss: Drafting preliminary sections (Question Presented, BA & Facts); Common issues with Writing Assignment #2

Tuesday, October 3, 2017
Bring a hard copy of your draft QP, BA & Facts to class for peer review.
Read: *Bluebook*, Rule 5 (pp. 82-86).
Discuss: Citation (quotations); Evaluating your QP, BA & Facts using rubric

Thursday, October 5, 2017 (date still to be confirmed)
Guest Speaker: Dr. Martin Simpson, UF Writing Studio on writing style etc.

Friday, October 6, 2017, 11.59pm
Writing Assignment #3 due (Full memorandum on 1st issue)

Tuesday, October 10, 2017
ICW Exercise #5 – completed by 11.59pm
Read: Materials provided for October 10
Discuss: Introducing 2nd issue
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Read: Materials provided for October 12
Discuss: Global introduction & rule explanation for 2nd issue

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
Writing Assignment #4 due (Global Intro & Rule Explanation of 2nd memorandum)
Guest Speaker: Neil Chonin, former Director, Legal Services of Greater Miami

Thursday, October 19, 2017
ICW Exercise #13 – completed by 11.59pm
First DCA oral arguments, Martin Levin Advocacy Center; Q&A with judges. Time to be announced.

Tuesday, October 24, 2017
Discuss: Review ICW Exercise #13; Review QP, BA & Facts using a rubric

Thursday, October 26, 2017
Discuss: Common issues on Writing Assignment #4 (Review your paper with comments)

Tuesday, October 31, 2017
Writing Assignment #5 due (Discussion Section (Global Intro, RE & Rule Application))
Discuss: Drafting a CV & cover letter for job search

Thursday, November 2, 2017
Read: Materials on TWEN
Discuss: TBD
Week of November 6-9, 2017
Writing conferences with Prof. McLendon (have specific questions prepared)

Tuesday, November 7, 2017
Discuss: Citation exercise; editing

Thursday, November 9, 2017
Discuss: Common issues on Writing Assignment #5 (Review your paper with comments)

Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Read: Checklist for Writing Assignment #6
Discuss: final editing tips; citation issues

Thursday, November 16, 2017
Discuss: Last Class; course evaluation; exam-taking tips.

Friday, November 17, 2017
Writing Assignment #6 (Full Memo #2) due by 11.59pm