ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLINIC
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW
FALL 2023 SYLLABUS—LAW 6465—3 CREDITS

Instructor

Thomas Hawkins, JD
Bruton-Greer, Room 220A
(352) 377-3141
hawkins@law.ufl.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Course

Meeting time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00 AM to 9:55 AM
Meeting location: MLAC 213

Course description and objectives

Under the supervision of the clinic director, students in the Environmental and Community Development Clinic work on contemporary legal problems in the fields of land use, local government, community economic development, and environmental law. Completing clinic projects will challenge students' problem-solving, legal research and writing, and public presentation skills.

Student learning outcomes

As a law clinic, the Environmental and Community Development Clinic does not have consistent assessments across semesters. I will not even assess all students identically in the same semester. Nonetheless, I will strive to teach you and to assess your proficiency in certain skills. At the end of the course, you should be able to—

- account for time spent working on clinic projects;
- compose professional correspondence;
- create legal memoranda;
- draft legislation;
- track a bill during a legislative session;
- research case law and legislation;
- research non-law subjects related to the policy of clinic projects;
- solve problems using knowledge of public policy and the law;
- speak to a decision-making body or professional audience; and
- write professional memoranda for a lay audience.

Required reading materials

I do not require you to have access to any specific text for this course. I will assign you readings throughout the semester and will use Canvas to provide those materials to you.

Please be sure to register for the course Canvas page and have any required materials available to you during class. You are responsible for checking the Canvas page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.

Course expectations and grading evaluation

I will assign you a grade of "S" (satisfactory) or "U" (unsatisfactory) based your performance in this class. The college will not calculate this grade in your grade point average. I will assess your performance on three criteria: participation in clinic meetings, working the required minimum number of hours, and performance on assigned tasks.

Criterion	Characteristics of satisfactory performance
Participation in clinic meetings	You attend scheduled class meetings, including one-on-one or small-group meetings with instructor. You are prepared for scheduled meetings and participate in discussions.
Working the required minimum number of hours	You timely submit weekly timesheets. You work 127.5 or more hours in semester. You work at least 85 hours for clients other than Levin College of Law.
Performance on assigned tasks	You diligently complete tasks I assign. You incorporate my feedback into your work. Your work is professional and meets other standards I set.

Class attendance policy

The American Bar Association, the College of Law, and I require you to attend class. If you are unable to attend class for any reason, please inform me of your anticipated absence before class and retain documentation of the reason for your absence (such as records of a job interview or a medical appointment).

You should not seek pre-approval for an absence or preemptively provide me documentation of a reason you are absent. However, if you fail to attend 90% of the scheduled course meetings over a semester, I may request the college drop you from the course. In that circumstance, I may evaluate the reasons for our absence and you may provide me relevant documents.

University of Florida Levin College of Law standard syllabus policies

You can find other important information about University of Florida Levin College of Law policies—including compliance with the University of Florida Honor Code, grading, accommodations, class recordings, and course evaluations—at this link: https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/427635/files/74674656?wrap=1.

American Bar Association Standard 310 "Determination of Credit Hours for Coursework"

American Bar Association Standard 310 requires that you prepare out-of-class for 120 minutes for every hour of in-class instruction. I designed the hours I require you to work for this clinic to meet this standard.

Course schedule of topics and assignments

This course schedule is a guide to the direction of the clinic. Our pace will depend in part on the level of interest and the level of difficulty of each section and is subject to change.

Week 1	**In-class topics:** • Professor and student introductions • Timesheet and work expectations • Introduction to clients and projects • The planning process as a model problem-solving framework **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 9)
Week 2	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Local government powers with focus on environment and community development (Dillon's Rule, home rule, preemption) **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 18)
Week 3	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Local government powers with focus on environment and community development (land development regulation) **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 27)
Week 4	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Alternative legal research strategies and techniques **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 36)

Week 5	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • State legislative process • Drafting rules (best practices) **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 45)
Week 6	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Drafting rules (best practices) **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 54)
Week 7	**In-class topics:** • Mid-semester student presentations **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 63)
Week 8	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Florida Community Planning Act **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 72)
Week 9	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Florida environmental and water laws **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 81)

Week 10	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Government beyond federal, state, or local (introduction to special districts) **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 90)
Week 11	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Public records and open meetings laws **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 99)
Week 12	**In-class topics:** • Project rounds • Guest speakers **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 108)
Week 13	**In-class topics:** • End-of-semester student presentations **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 117)
Week 14	**In-class topics:** • End-of-semester student presentations **Readings:** • Readings as assigned **Assignments:** • Client projects as assigned • Submit timesheet (target hours 126)
Week 15	**In-class topics:** • None (reading period) **Assignments:** • Submit timesheet (target hours 127.5)

Week 16	**In-class topics:** • None (exam period) **Assignments:** • Submit timesheet (target hours 127.5)
Week 17	**In-class topics:** • None (exam period) **Assignments:** • Submit timesheet (target hours 127.5)