

Appellate Advocacy § U
Course # 5793, 2 Credits
Prof. Henry T. Wihnyk
Spring 2020

SYLLABUS

Welcome to Appellate Advocacy! This is the second part of a two-semester course designed to get you thinking and writing like lawyers. Our course has six components:

- [1] writing assignments and exercises, consisting of several projects designed to teach you how to formulate persuasive legal analysis and to prepare an appellate brief,
- [2] conferences with teaching assistants to review specific assignments,
- [3] conferences (and office hour appointments) with me to review your written work,
- [4] in-class discussions, and
- [5] appellate oral argument exercises designed to teach you how to prepare for and present an argument before an appellate court.

It is anticipated that you will spend approximately 2 hours out of class reading and preparing writing exercises and assignments for every 1 hour in class.

A Note About Assignments

Your reading assignments are heavy at the start of the semester, but taper off towards the end. Your writing assignments are spread out over the semester.

This semester, you will be required to pace yourself more than you did last semester. Please make sure that you do not wait until the last moment to write sections of the brief such as the Caption page; Table of Contents; Table of Authorities; Questions Presented; Statement of the Case and Facts; Summary of Argument; Conclusion (not exceeding 1 page).

For your convenience, I will provide, in the TEMPLATES link on the course TWEN page, templates of these sections of the brief. You'll need to download them into your Word file. (This will save you HOURS of work!)

Appellate Advocacy Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The primary objective of this course is to teach you how to construct a thorough legal argument and express it effectively and persuasively in writing. An additional objective is to teach you how to perform effectively in presenting oral argument in support of your legal position.

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to

- Apply a lawyer's ethical and professional standards in the context of written and oral advocacy.
- Demonstrate an understanding of appellate standards of review of trial court decisions.
- Use effective techniques of persuasion.
- Develop a theme and integrate that theme into your argument.
- Frame a legal issue to persuade a court to rule in your favor.
- Present a compelling account of all relevant facts.
- Write a persuasive argument, supported by credibility, logic, the law, and a commanding narrative.
- Use effective organizational techniques.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of adhering to appellate procedural rules and formatting requirements for submitting appellate briefs to a court.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the basic appellate process and fundamental appellate concepts, including the decision to appeal.
- Edit and proofread a persuasive legal document.
- Prepare and effectively present an oral argument in support of your legal position.

Grading

Appellate Advocacy is graded by letter and is subject to the mandatory grade curve established by the College of Law.

Your final grade in the course will be determined by:

1. Final Draft of Appellate Brief (Writing Assignment 4): 80%
2. Participation: 20% - including:

Satisfactory work on all assignments (see Class Expectations below).

Compliance with Course Policies and Class Expectations.

You must complete all assignments to pass the course.

Information on UF Law Grading Policies

Grade	Points
A (Excellent)	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B (Good)	3.00
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C (Satisfactory)	2.00
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D (Poor)	1.00
D-	0.67
E (Failure)	0.0

The law school grading policy is available at
<http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#9>

Class Expectations

I expect you to:

- (1) satisfactorily and timely complete all writing, oral argument and citation assignments and exercises;
- (2) attend and demonstrate preparedness in class, in oral argument sessions, and in writing conferences; and
- (3) demonstrate professionalism.

What this means:

Satisfactorily complete assignments

The goals of all assignments in this course are to teach you the principles of and give you practice in developing persuasive legal analysis and argument skills. I want you to use the assignments to practice these techniques, to learn from your teaching assistant's and my feedback, to learn from your strengths and weaknesses and to improve.

For each assignment, I will provide to you a checklist of my expectations for the project and will use the checklist to aid me in assessing the quality of your work. I will evaluate your performance based on the skill and effort you demonstrate in doing the best work that you can on each assignment, the skill and effort you demonstrate in applying the principles discussed in the assigned reading and during our class meetings, and the skill and effort you demonstrate in revising your work.

Timely complete assignments

As it is in law practice, time management is a critical component of our class. Just as clients, senior partners, and judges expect work to be submitted timely, I expect your work to be submitted no later than the specified deadline. If you worked for me as a law clerk and you submitted an assignment after the deadline, without excuse, I'd likely fire you and definitely would not offer you a permanent position in the firm. Therefore, I will not accept such conduct in this course.

I will not review ungraded assignments if not submitted by the deadline. They will be considered to be unsatisfactory. Your final grade will be lowered one level (e.g. B to B-) for each ungraded assignment not submitted by the deadline. Graded assignments will be lowered one level (e.g. B to B-) for every day or portion of a day that the assignment is late.

I will excuse late submissions only in limited emergencies. As to emergencies involving serious illness (your, a close friend, or a family member), accident, or the complete death of your computer (i.e., it blows up, the hard drive crashes), please call me, e-mail me, or see me as soon as possible. Under these circumstances, I will delay the deadline for your paper to give you enough time to deal with the emergency. Bottom line: Meet all deadlines. If you know you can't, let me know as soon as possible. I am far more likely to grant extensions of time to students who contact me before the assignment is due, than to those who see me on or after the deadline.

The following examples do not constitute an excuse for missing a deadline – so please don't even ask: a job interview; reasonably foreseeable transportation trouble; reasonably foreseeable computer or printer problems - this includes any difficulties submitting assignments on the course TWEN page; typist trouble; “ran out of time”; “left it at home”; “didn't understand the assignment or how to complete it.”

Demonstrate preparedness in class

You are responsible for the information contained in all TWEN postings, handouts and assigned reading. I expect that you will have completed the reading assignment and that you will participate in class. I will call on students during class and expect them to be prepared. I will administer several quizzes to evaluate your understanding of the assigned reading. I also expect that you will be prepared to participate during in-class group exercises. This is not a lecture course. I will not use our valuable class time to reiterate what you've read. Instead, I will use class meetings to give you practice using the skills and applying the principles covered in the assigned reading. Our class meetings will have value to you only if you come prepared to participate.

I understand that sometimes things will complicate your life and that you may not be prepared for a particular class session. If you are unprepared to participate in a class session, please let me know before class begins, and I will not call on you that day. Do not make a habit of this.

Unpreparedness may result in the lowering of your final grade.

Demonstrate preparedness in writing conferences

You will be required to meet with me to confer about your work in the course. I expect that before a writing conference you will have reviewed all comments written on your paper by your teaching assistant and by me. I expect that you will have reviewed all portions of our text and course materials relevant to the revisions you'll need to perform. I expect that you will come to the conference with specific questions for your teaching assistant and me about your work and how to improve it.

Unpreparedness may result in the lowering of your final grade.

Demonstrate professionalism

In three short years, you will be representing clients in matters affecting their liberty, their lives, and their property. Now is the time to start taking this responsibility seriously. With this in mind, I expect that you will conduct yourself professionally. By professionalism, I mean conforming to the technical and ethical standards of the legal profession as well as its etiquette and culture and conforming to my course policies.

•Professional Quality Work

I expect you to produce professional quality work. You have the ability and maturity to approach your work with diligence. I expect you to produce work that exhibits a professional quality conforming to all format requirements and that is carefully proofread. When preparing an assignment for this course pay attention to detail as you would if you were a law clerk or practicing attorney preparing a document for review by a senior partner or by a client. Just as an employer or client would not accept sloppy work from you, I will not accept such work in this course.

•Professional Conduct in Class

In law practice, your role as a member of the legal profession and as an officer of the court requires that you conduct yourself with honor, courtesy, civility and professionalism. I expect this conduct in class. This means arriving on time, focusing on what is going on in class and not distracting others. I expect each of you to listen courteously to your colleagues, even if they express ideas you do not agree with. You will be given the same uninterrupted opportunity to express your own ideas.

Although I welcome and encourage class participation, do not call out in class. If you want to contribute to the class discussion, raise your hand and wait to be recognized.

You may not use information technology in class (laptops, tablets, iPads, etc.) unless authorized by me for specific class purposes. Electronic devices (laptops, tablets, cell phones) must remain stowed away during class time. Please plan to take notes with paper and pen or pencil; studies have shown consistently that the physical work of writing down notes increases your retention of the material. However, we will be using computers in class frequently, so do plan to have it available.

Silence cell phones and beepers.

Do not wear hats in class.

You may not record class sessions without my express consent.

Attendance

You are required to attend all scheduled class meetings, writing conferences, oral argument exercises, and mandatory special events. In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena).

If you must miss class, please contact me in advance via email and ask for an excused absence. If you miss class because you have been ill, please contact me and your teaching assistant regarding your absence before the next class meeting.

Your final grade in the course may be lowered one level (e.g. B to B-) for each unexcused absence. If you miss a class, you are responsible for finding out what you missed and obtaining any handouts or assignments. I will permit a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in class during an excused absence.

Missing more than six classes will result in a failing grade in the course.

Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade penalty.

The law school's policy on attendance can be found at:

<http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#3>

Getting in Touch with Me

Please come see me in my office (339 Holland Hall) or get in touch with me by e-mail if you have any questions regarding this course or an assignment. My office hours will be posted on the course TWEN page. My office phone number is 273-0881. My e-mail address is wihnyk@law.ufl.edu.

Office Hours

My “official” office hours will be posted on our course TWEN page. You may guarantee a time to see me by reserving a time on the sign-up sheet located at the “Conferences/Office Hours with Prof. Wihnyk” navigation link on our course TWEN page. You can also schedule a particular time with me in person or via email.

Please feel free to stop by my office at other times. If I am able, I’ll be happy to meet with you. Usually, I keep my office door closed, so feel free to knock on the door.

No conferences will be held within the 24 hours prior to an assignment due date. This rule applies to conferences with me and with your TA.

Format Requirements for Writing Assignments

The following strictly enforced rules govern the form of all writing assignments:

- All assignments must be Word documents double-spaced with one-inch (bottom, top, left, right) margins. The bottom margin should be one inch from the last line of the text, not from the page number.
- Do not align or justify the right margin.
- Each page should be numbered (center, bottom).
- Type must be Times New Roman 12 point.
- All citations must follow Bluebook Citation Manual rules.

Responsibilities to Your Other Classes

As lawyers, you will be responsible for many clients or legal matters at the same time. When you are engaged in a big project involving one client, you must still attend to the legal affairs of your other clients. Likewise, when you are engaged in preparing an assignment for Appellate Advocacy, you are still responsible for attending your other classes and completing the work for those classes.

The Honor Code - its Role in Our Course

In every aspect of this course – from written assignments of all types, to meetings with me and your teaching assistants, to class attendance – you’re strictly bound by the Honor Code as well as all rules, codes, regulations, and policies of the University and of the College of Law regarding student conduct.

Collaboration

All work in this course must be your own. You must do your own research, writing, proofreading, and editing. You may use the services of a typist. The typist may not edit or direct you to edit or change what you’ve written. I want to help you develop your skills; I can’t do this if the work I review isn’t your own. Only you, your teaching assistant, and I may review your work for planning revisions. No other person—classmates, friends, family—may review your work. Unless I specifically instruct you otherwise, you may not read another student’s work – either a present student’s or a past student’s – and you may not allow another student to read your work.

You may discuss cases, arguments, research, and citation techniques with each other.

Plagiarism

Representing another’s work as your own constitutes plagiarism. Paraphrasing or quoting from a case or a law review article without properly acknowledging the source or without including quotation marks where such marks are appropriate constitutes plagiarism. Any paper evidencing plagiarism will automatically 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.

Course 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 given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

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

For more information, contact the Dean of Students Office.

UF Policies:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Getting Help:

Resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources

- Disability resources

- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints

- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Class Topics and Assignments

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly and timely, are not unusual and should be expected.

I will give quizzes to evaluate your understanding of the assigned reading.

Overview of Writing Assignment Due Dates:

Writing Assignment #1 – 2/17/20

Writing Assignment #2 – 3/13/20

Writing Assignment #3 – 4/17/20

All writing assignments must be uploaded as Word documents to the “Assignment Dropbox” on the course TWEN site.

Class Schedule

Week	Class/Date	Topics	Assignment for Class	Exercises & Writing Assignments
1	#1 Tues. 1/14/20	-Introduction to Appellate Advocacy, -Persuasion, -Appellate Practice	READ: TEXT – Chapters 1 & 5	
	#2 Thurs. 1/16/20	Our Record on Appeal and Authorities- -Discussion of Record, Issues, and the assigned cases.	READ: TWEN – Record on Appeal; Authorities: - <i>Parkins</i> (Do not read the Retaliation analysis on pages 1038-39), - <i>Zimmerman</i> - <i>Meritor</i> (Do not read the concurring or dissenting opinions) and -Theories Under Which an Employer Can Be Liable for Sexual Harassment Flow Chart	

2	#3 Tues. 1/21/20	Our Record on Appeal and Authorities- -Discussion of Record, Issues, and the assigned cases.	READ: TEXT- Chapter 7 – § 7.1, § 7.2, § 7.4 TWEN – Authorities: - <i>Young</i> , - <i>Faragher</i> (Do not read pages 794-800, dissenting opinion), And - <i>Bernier</i>	
	#4 Thurs. 1/23/20	Our Record on Appeal and Authorities- -Discussion of Record, Issues, and the assigned cases.	READ: -TWEN- Authorities: ---- <i>Baskerville</i> - <i>Rouse</i> - <i>Burlington</i> (Do not read pages 748-759, concurring and dissenting opinion). - <i>Saxton</i> - <i>Carr</i> (do not read dissenting opinion) - <i>Guess</i> and - <i>Wilson</i>	
3	#5 Tuesday 1/28/20	-Organizing and Structuring Arguments -Developing Persuasive Arguments -Actual Notice Rule Explanation	READ: TWEN- Sample Brief's Argument section. TEXT- Chapter 8- I. & II. pages 161 - 179	
	#6 Thursday 1/30/20	Actual Notice Rule Explanation		Bring your work on EXERCISE 1 to class.
4	Tuesday 2/4/20	-Developing Persuasive Arguments -Actual Notice Rule Application	READ: TEXT- Chapter 8- III. Pages 179 – 185	
	Thursday 2/6/20	-Actual Notice Rule Application And	READ: TEXT - Chapter 14 - §14.1	Bring your work on

		-Appellate Oral Argument		EXERCISE 2 to class
	Friday 2/7/20	Maguire Moot Court Competition	Attend competition in the MLAC Main Courtroom (Time TBA)	
5	Tuesday 2/11/20	-Refining Persuasive Arguments -Constructing Appellate Briefs	READ: TEXT- Chapter 11 Omit "E. Issue (or Question) Presented" pages 238 – 242	
	Thursday 2/13/20	Q&A re: Writing Assignment #1		
6	Monday 2/17/20			Turn in Writing Assignment 1 to assignment drop box no later than 9:00 a.m.
	Tuesday 2/18/20	Discussion of Remedial Measures Issue and Authorities	REVIEW: Record on Appeal and Remedial Measures Cases	
	Thursday 2/20/20	Planning, Organizing the Remedial Measures Sub-Argument	REVIEW: Record on Appeal and Remedial Measures Cases	Bring your work on EXERCISE 3 to class
7	Tuesday 2/25/20	"Debriefing" Writing Assignment #1		
	Thursday 2/27/20	Preparing for and Presenting Oral Argument	READ: TEXT- Chapter 14 – § 14.2, § 14.3, § 14.4 II. "Arguing Before Appellate Courts" pages 358 – 364 TWN- Oral Argument Materials-	

			-How to Prepare for Oral Argument -Florida Supreme Court's Description of Oral Argument	
8	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
9 Mini-Orals this Week	Tuesday 3/10/20	Q&A re: Writing Assignment #2		
	Thursday 3/12/20	No Class		
	Friday 3/13/20			Turn in Writing Assignment 2 to assignment drop box no later than 5:00 p.m.
10	Tuesday 3/17/20	Drafting the Statement of Facts	READ: TEXT – Chapter 12 TWEN- Sample Brief's Statement of Facts	Bring your work on EXERCISE 4 to class.
	Thursday 3/19/20	Teaching Assistant Group Meetings with Prof. Wihnyk		
11 Practice Orals this Week	Tuesday 3/24/20	Teaching Assistant Group Meetings with Prof. Wihnyk		
	Thursday 3/26/20	Teaching Assistant Group Meetings with Prof. Wihnyk		
12 Final Orals this Week	Tuesday 3/31/20	"Debriefing" Writing Assignment #2		
	Thursday 4/2/20	Drafting the Question Presented	READ: TEXT- Chapter 11 E pages 238-242	Bring your work on EXERCISE 5 to class.

13 Final Orals this Week	Tuesday 4/7/20	Drafting the Argument Headings	READ: TEXT- Chapter 9 II. Pages 191 – 196 TWEN- Sample Brief's Table of Contents	Bring your work on EXERCISE 6 to class.
	Thursday 4/9/20	Drafting the Summary of Argument	READ: TEXT- Chapter 11 G. TWEN- Sample Brief's Summary of Argument	
14	Tuesday 4/14/20	Q&A re: Writing Assignment 3		
	Thursday 4/16/20	No Class		
	Friday 4/17/20			Turn in Writing Assignment 3 to assignment drop box no later than 5:00 p.m.