

Introduction to Lawyering: Next Generation Lawyering (Law 5755)
Fall 2025 & Spring 2026
2 credits

SYLLABUS

Section 1

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Section 2

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Section 3

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Section 4

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OVERVIEW

Introduction to Lawyering: Next Generation Lawyering is a two-credit course that introduces you to the study of law, the practice of law, the business of law, and the technology that drives modern legal practice. The course meets throughout your first year of law school, with most *meetings* occurring during the week preceding your regular courses, known at the law school as “compressed course” week. In the Fall semester, the focus of the course will be on introducing you to law school, the practice of law, legal job search skills and the opportunities a J.D. can provide. In the Spring, our focus will shift to integrating legal skills and legal technology.

1. Required Texts and Other Materials.

(A) JDEdge by Access Lex

(B) *ROADMAP THE LAW STUDENT’S GUIDE TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT, THIRD EDITION* BY NEIL HAMILTON.

(C) Additional Materials: Other necessary materials are available to you on the Canvas site as posted documents or links to documents, which you will access through the “Modules” tab on the Canvas site.

2. Course Objective and Goals

Building on complementary courses – including JD Edge, Legal Research, and Legal Writing, Introduction to Lawyering introduces you to law school and the legal profession. It aims to establish a foundation for your near- and long-term success as a law student and a practicing lawyer. Our first goal is to help you achieve in law school, and the beginning of the course will set you up for success in the classroom. Our second goal is to help you navigate legal practice and find a meaningful and rewarding career. Our third goal is to equip you with the necessary skills for success in growing and building your career within a rapidly changing professional landscape. Finally, we aim to ensure that you have core

competency in the most important legal technology tools that will shape your practice.

The specific objectives for this two-part course are to improve your knowledge of and skills in four main areas:

- (1) Understanding, embracing, and succeeding in core law school skills (including issue spotting and analysis; critical reading; and basic client advising);
- (2) Understanding the operation and structure of the legal profession, including the importance of networking, client relationships, and client management;
- (3) Understanding and applying basic legal skills in the areas of negotiation and dispute resolution;
- (4) Understanding and using basic legal technology tools to facilitate legal writing, legal research, legal analysis; and the practice of and business of law

3. Learning Outcomes.

You will understand the law school's unique educational environment, including recognizing how it differs from undergraduate or other previous educational experiences, and learn practical skills to help you succeed. You will also understand how legal education fits within the larger legal profession and, in all environments, grasp how to leverage legal education, networking, and career development skills for long-term success.

You will demonstrate knowledge of these concepts through in class participation, written assignments, and the final exam (which will take place after the spring compressed course week). Students will integrate their knowledge of these concepts through simulation exercises and reflection papers. To improve their readiness for the legal job market, students are required to write a self-assessment of their career development, a cover letter, and a resume.

4. Evaluation and Receiving Credit for this Course.

This is a pass/fail course. To receive credit for this course, you must do the following:

- not miss more than one scheduled class meeting per semester
- Successfully complete all written assignments
- Consistently be prepared when called upon in class and/or when participating in small-group exercises
- Achieve a satisfactory score on the final examination in spring 2026
- Participate in good faith in all classroom activities and exercises

Students who do not satisfy each of the above requirements will either need to complete additional assignments or repeat this course the following year to earn credit for the course.

Although this is a pass/fail course, each professor will award a small percentage of “S+” grades at the end of the semester to students who excel in the above categories.

5. Course Evaluations.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals OR via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

6. Course Policies.

- a. **Attendance Requirements.** Pursuant to law school and ABA regulations, students are required to attend class regularly. Absences for observance of religious holidays are excused. Please let us know, via email, if you plan to miss class for this reason only. Otherwise, you are allowed to miss a total of 1 class period. We will not issue warnings—it is your responsibility to keep track of your absences. Upon missing more than four hours of instructional time, you may receive a failing grade for the course. Extraordinary situations, personal illnesses, and not-cleared COVID statuses should be addressed to the staff at Student Life, who will handle attendance accommodations.
- b. **Class Participation.** We expect you to come to class having read the material, completing any required pre-class assignments (such as assigned worksheets or videos), and prepare to engage in discussions or exercises. Being unprepared when called upon or failing to participate in any assignment or exercise, whether graded or non-graded, may affect whether you receive credit for this course.
- c. **Written Assignments.** To receive credit for this course, you must successfully complete the three written assignments. Each assignment is due by the start of class on the day for which it is assigned. These written assignments are: (1) a resume; (2) a cover letter; (3) a statement of career development. You will find the instructions for each of the written assignments on the Canvas site (under the “Assignments” tab on the left hand side.) You are required to submit all of the assignments on Canvas. You also need to email your resume to your assigned Career and Professional Development Advisor. The length of the statement of career development should be approximately two pages.

As the culminating project for the class, you will be required to review a case file and prepare a case brief and analysis.

- d. **Classroom Behavior.** You are all bound by the University Student Code of Conduct, the College of Law Honor Code, and the rules for this course. Proper conduct in the classroom is necessary to allow everyone to participate in, to derive benefit from, and enjoy the class. Any unprofessional, disrespectful, harassing, disruptive, or distracting conduct that has a negative effect on the classroom atmosphere is prohibited. ***Unless required for a course activity, you are not allowed to use a laptop computer during class or access the internet or any electronically-stored information using any device (including phones) during class without the professor's permission.*** Except as provided below concerning in-class recordings, all electronic devices should be turned off during class. Other inappropriate classroom conduct will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The conduct described in this paragraph may result in administrative removal from the course.

Please arrive at class on time. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late without prior permission, you may be counted as absent.

- e. **Statement Related to Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the [Office of Disability Resources](#). The UF Office of Disability Resources will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Law School Office of Student Affairs when requesting accommodation.
- f. **Discourse and Classroom Ethos:** As a law student and future lawyer, it is important that you be able to engage in rigorous discourse and critical evaluation while also demonstrating civility and respect for others. This is even more important in the case of controversial issues and other topics that may elicit strong emotions.

As a group, we come from a variety of racial, ethnic, sexual, religious, and political lines. As we enter one of the great learning spaces in the world—the law school classroom—and develop our unique personality as a class section, we encourage each of us to:

- commit to self-examination of our values and assumptions
- speak honestly, thoughtfully, and respectfully
- listen carefully and respectfully
- reserve the right to change our mind and allow for others to do the same
- allow ourselves and each other to verbalize ideas and to push the boundaries of logic and reasoning both as a means of exploring our beliefs as well as a method of sharpening our skills as lawyers

7. Technology: You are required to bring your laptop to each class. You are prohibited from using any form of Artificial Intelligence when completing any assignments or class work unless explicitly permitted by the professor(s). Failure to abide by this policy will be deemed a violation of the UF Honor Code.

8. Standard Syllabus Policies. Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including compliance with the UF Honor Code, Grading, Accommodations, Class Recordings, and Course Evaluations can be found at [this link](#).

9. Getting Help. Law school and life can get stressful. You can reach the law school's mental health counselor, Ritzy Ettinger, at rettinger@ufl.edu. You can also reach out to Student Life at gatoraid@law.ufl.edu.

Additional 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

10. Course Schedule.

FALL 2025:

Sections 1 & 2

Class 1: Tuesday, August 12: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm (Intro to Law School; Reading and Comprehending a Case).

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Class 2: Wednesday, August 13: 9:00 am to 11:50 am (Briefing a Case, Preparing for Class and the Classroom Experience)

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Class 3: Wednesday, August 13: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm (Issue Spotting and Legal Analysis)

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Class 4: Thursday, August 14: 9:00 am to 11:50 am (Putting it All Together)

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Class 5: Thursday, August 14: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm (Career Explorations, Intro to Networking and Relationship Building and Legal Career Paths)

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Section 3 & 4

Class 1: Tuesday, August 12: 9:00 am to 11:50 am (Intro to Law School; Reading and Comprehending a Case).

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Class 2: Tuesday, August 12: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm (Briefing a Case, Preparing for Class and the Classroom Experience)

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Class 3: Wednesday, August 13: 9:00 am to 11:50 am (Issue Spotting and Legal Analysis)

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Class 4: Wednesday, August 13: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm (Putting it All Together)

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

Class 5: Thursday, August 14: 9:00 am to 11:50 am (Career Explorations, Intro to Networking and Relationship Building and Legal Career Paths)

Read: See Canvas Module for Assigned Readings.

All Sections

Class 6: Friday, August 29 – Morning Session (9:00 am to 10:30 am) or Afternoon Session (12:30 pm to 2:00 pm)

Students will receive assigned session time via email. (Presenting Yourself in Writing: Legal Careers, Resumes, and Cover Letters)

Reading: ROADMAP, Chapters 1-3; Resume and Cover Letter Handout

Class 7: Friday, September 12 – Morning Session (9:00 am to 10:30 am) or Afternoon Session (12:30 pm to 2:00 pm)

Students will receive assigned session time via email. (Presenting Yourself in Person: Interviewing and Job Search)

Reading: ROADMAP, Chapters 4-5

SPRING 2026: NEXT GENERATION LAWYERING Session: January 7-11

Lawyering Skills (Negotiation, Client Counseling, EI and AI!)