

LSTD298

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Course Summary

Course: LSTD298 **Title:** Sophomore Seminar in Legal Studies

Length of Course: 8

Prerequisites: N/A **Credit Hours:** 3

Description

Course Description:

This course is a culminating course for the Associate of Science in Legal Studies degree. It is designed to allow the student to review, analyze and integrate the work the student has completed toward a degree in Legal Studies. The student will complete an approved academic project that demonstrates their grasp of the Legal Studies field. This is a culminating course to be taken after at least 85% of all other Associate of Science in Legal Studies courses have been satisfactorily completed. Student must have SOPHOMORE standing to register. Prerequisite: This course is intended to be taken as your final course in the AS in Legal Studies program.

Course Scope:

This course will allow the student to reflect upon their academic journey through the AS in Legal Studies Program allowing the student to demonstrate their mastery of the major themes learned during their studies. The activities and assignments are geared so that students will build towards creating a Final Project that demonstrates the student's ability to critically think and analyze areas in the legal studies field.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply legal research methods and techniques used in the practice of law.
2. Apply federal, state, and/or other professional rules to provided legal questions.
3. Apply basic legal reasoning skills.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, function, principles, and concepts of law as they relate to the legal professional.
5. Employ Bluebook citation style.
6. Create an internal legal memorandum.
7. Create a multimedia presentation based on what students learned throughout the degree program.

Outline

Week 1:

Topic(s)

Legal Research and Writing: Best Practices

Learning Objectives

L01: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find legal resources.

L02: Describe the value to you of learning the basics of legal research and writing skills.

L03: Use your state's bar and/or other professional rules to offer legal research and/or legal writing advice to classmates.

Reading(s):

Located in Week One Content

Assignment(s):

Introduction Discussion and Week 1 Discussion Questions

Week 2:

Topic(s)

The Role of the Paralegal

or Legal Professional

Learning Objectives

L01: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find legal resources.

L02: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.

Reading(s):

Located in Week Two Content

Assignments:

Week 2 Discussion Questions

Informational Interview Selection and Conference with the Professor Assignment

Week 3:

Topic(s)

Civil Litigation and

Alternative Dispute

Resolution

Learning Objectives

LO1: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.

LO2: Use your state's bar and/or other professional rules to address a provided legal or ethical question.

Reading(s):

Located in Week Three Content

Assignment:

Discussion Questions

Week 4:

Topic(s)

Access to Justice

Learning Objective(s)

LO1: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find legal resources.

LO2: Identify the facts, procedures and concepts in an amicus brief that are most pertinent to that case's legal reasoning.

LO3: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise an amicus brief.

LO4: Apply the correct Bluebook citation style to a legal resource that needs to be cited.

Reading(s):

Located in Week Four Content

Assignments:

Discussion Questions

Amicus Brief Summary Assignment

Week 5:

Topic(s)

Criminal Law and Criminal Liability

Learning Objectives

LO1: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find legal resources.

LO2: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to resolve typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.

Reading(s):

Located in Week Five Content

Assignment:

Discussion Questions

Week 6:

Topic(s) Legal Ethics

Objectives

LO1: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find legal resources.

LO2: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.

Reading(s):

Located in Week Six Content

Assignment:

Discussion Questions

Week 7:

Topic(s) Civil Practice

and Procedure

Objectives

LO1: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find legal resources.

LO2: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.

Reading(s):

Located in Week Seven Content

Assignment:

Discussion Questions

Week 8:

Topic(s)

Ownership and Easements

Learning Objectives

L01: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find legal resources.

L02: Identify the facts, procedures and concepts in a provided fact pattern that are most pertinent to that case's legal reasoning.

L03: Write an internal legal memorandum with appropriate content and format.

L04: Apply the correct Bluebook citation style to a legal resource that needs to be cited.

L05: Design a multimedia presentation that addresses the value of what students learned in their degree program.

Reading(s):

Located in Week Eight Content

Assignments:

Discussion Questions

Final Project Submission

Evaluation

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following course requirements:

- 1. Discussion Questions and Responses to Other Students Work:** Each student will be required to answer the weekly Discussion question and respond to at least three other students. The Discussion questions can be found in each Discussion. Students will be required to post their weekly Discussion question to the proper Discussion board. There are eight (8) graded Discussions.

Questions and topics posed in the Discussions are designed to promote thought and insight. Students must provide a critical review of the questions, topics and issues posed and substantively reply to the contributions of at least three peers. Individual postings should fully address the substance of the question posed and explain how it relates to the concepts in the weekly text readings and other resources. The postings should be analytic in nature and include comparisons/contrasts, and examples that can bolster your points. The Discussion is for your benefit and it is important to respond to the topic and to engage others in a running dialogue.

Your initial post should be made by Thursday. You should then respond to 3 or more posts. Note that at least one response to your classmates must be made before Sunday. If you make all of your responsive posts on Sunday, you will not earn full points for timeliness.

This can be accomplished by

- Validating with additional evidence from the literature and/or support through the use of a scholarly source.

- Posing a thoughtful question with commentary which generates further discussion.
- Providing an alternative point-of-view, with evidence and examples.
- Offering additional insight into how the concept might be understood, with evidence provided with real world examples.

You should be active in the classroom throughout the week and actively engaged in the back-and-forth discussion between your colleagues and the professor.

The discussion grading rubric can be found in gradebook by selection on the discussion entry.

2. Informational Interview Selection and Conference with Professor: Each student will be required to select a person in his or her legal field of interest on whom to perform an information interview on, then later report the findings as a component towards the completion of the Final Project. A link to such is in the Assignment section of the class.

3. Amicus Brief Summary – Each student will be required to review an amicus brief related to Access to Justice. A link to such is in the Assignment section of the class.

4. Final Project: This is posted in the Assignment section of the class. The Final Project is a multi-media presentation that must be at least 10 slides (not including title/references).

Classroom participation is necessary for distance education. You will have to interact with your fellow students and your professor. with your fellow students and your professor. Interaction will increase our knowledge of each other, the course material, and heighten the learning process and experience.

It is imperative that the student stays in contact with the professor and university. If your work schedule changes, or you are deployed, a family emergency occurs, or anything that will cause your course assignments to be late, you must contact me. It is the student's responsibility to advise the professor of any changes that will cause course assignments to be late.

Students should log into the classroom several times a week and check Discussion boards and emails. If you need anything, communicate with the course professor first to work out any problems.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Introductions	1.00 %
Introductions	1.00 %
Discussions	29.00 %
Week 1	3.63 %
Week 2	3.63 %
Week 3	3.63 %
Week 4	3.63 %
Week 5	3.63 %
Week 6	3.63 %
Week 7	3.63 %
Week 8	3.63 %
Informational interview Selection	10.00 %
Informational Interview Selection (Week 2)	10.00 %
Amicus Brief Summary	20.00 %
Amicus Brief Summary (Week 4)	20.00 %
Final Project	40.00 %
Final Project	40.00 %

Materials

Book Title: There are no required books for this course.

Author: No Author Specified

Publication

Info: ISBN: N/A

Book Title: Bluebook: Uniform System of Citation, 20th ed. - - e-book available online, please visit [eReserve](#) to locate the course.

Author: Harvard, Columbia Law Review

Publication Info: Harvard, Columbia Law

Review **ISBN:** 9780692400197

This course will not require a specific eBook or textbook. The course material will be delivered using scholarly articles, PowerPoint Presentations (PPP), and web-based sources that are located within the weekly Content sections of the electronic classroom.

Course Guidelines

Writing Expectations

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. Specific details are provided in the assignment section as assignment formats vary. Uploaded documents in the assignment section should be in Word (.doc, .docx) or PowerPoint (.ppt) format, as appropriate. Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will automatically analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism or overuse of quotes for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The expectation is that the writing will be in your words after analysis of the sources.

Citation and Reference Style

The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All courses in the Legal Studies program require that any narrative essay or composition format follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. Do not purchase The Bluebook, as it is available at the [APUS library](#).

Late Submissions

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Time management and meeting deadlines are critical components for success in the legal profession. Please see the university's [Late Submissions](#) policy.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning, which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), J

DisclaimerStatement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.
- **Legal Studies Program Guide:** This should be your starting point as you explore the resources available for the [Legal Studies Program!](#)

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

- [Late Submissions](#)

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