ADVANCED LEGAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIES
FALL 2016*

(*The majority of the syllabus material, and many of the course handouts, were taken from Professor Twinette Johnson’s Spring, 2016 Advanced Legal Analysis and Strategies course.)

Professor: Heidi Ramos-Zimmerman  Office: Room 177c  Phone: 618-536-4423
Email: hramos@siu.edu

Class Times: Thursdays 3:00–4:50 – Room 253  Office Hours: Open door policy, but students not registered in a clinic course must stop by the receptionist first. Appointments are recommended to guarantee my presence in the building.

ASSIGNED TEXTS:
Required:
BarBri materials distributed in class

Recommended
Pass The Bar!, Riebe and Schwartz
Acing the Bar Exam, Darrow-Kleinhaus

PROFESSIONAL GOALS:
Advanced Legal Analysis and Strategies (ALAS) will introduce and reinforce bar examination study and test taking skills through in-depth exploration of each part of the bar exam (multiple choice (MBE), essay (MEE) and multi state performance exam (MPT)). In addition, ALAS seeks to strengthen those ancillary skills – analyzing, studying and memorizing the substantive information – that directly influence student success on the bar exam. ALAS is not a replacement for a traditional commercial bar preparation course which seeks to provide all the necessary substantive information. Rather, it is a course meant to develop the skills necessary for bar exam success.

PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS:
As you know, your professional legal career began when you started law school. As you look to completing law school and becoming practicing attorneys, I want you to continue learning and practicing the professional behavior expected of you as attorneys in the legal profession. To that end, please read and familiarize yourself with the following specifics:

Assignments:
You are responsible for all assigned reading (including exercises) whether or not it is covered in class. You must also complete all additional assignments as they are assigned during the semester. The syllabus reflects my best approximation of the time needed to cover each topic. If necessary, I will modify the schedule and advise you of any changes.

Attendance, Preparation and Participation:
Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. As a professional courtesy, please notify me in advance if you must miss class. You are allowed two absences in this class. If you miss two classes, I will contact the Associate Dean regarding
your absence; inform him of the potential result if you miss an additional class and the resultant effect on your grade. If you miss class three times, you may receive an UNSATISFACTORY for this course.

The School of Law’s attendance policies, influenced by the Standards of Accreditation of the American Bar Association, requires regular and punctual class attendance by all students. At the beginning of each class, a class list will be passed around for initialing. No one may initial for another student. Please arrive on time so as not to disrupt the class in progress.

**Preparation:** You are expected to attend and be prepared to participate in every class. The format of each class will consist of an overview of the day, lecture/discussion of the materials read for homework as well as new topics and moving beyond the course reading with discussion and practice of a particular bar exam part and the applicable test taking skills. While readings and exercises alone will not fully inform you, they are an important step in learning the process of studying for, memorizing and answering an exam question.

The American Bar Association standards for accrediting law schools contain a formula for calculating the amount of work that constitutes one credit hour. According to ABA Standard 310(b)(1), “a “credit hour” is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: (1) not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.” This is a 2-credit hour class, meaning that we will spend two 50-minute blocks of time together each week (a 100-minute block each Thursday). The amount of assigned reading and out of class preparation should take you about 4 hours for each week’s class. Applying the ABA standard to the number of credits offered for this class, you should plan on spending a total of 6 hours per week (2 in class and 4 preparing for class) on course-related work.

**Participation:** Being prepared means completing any assigned readings and exercises, taking the time to understand them and being able to engage in class discussion regarding the materials. To facilitate class discussion, I will primarily seek volunteers, but reserve the right to call on students.

In this class, people of all ethnicities, genders or gender identities, religions, ages, sexual orientations, disabilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, and nationalities are strongly encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences. If you feel your differences may, in some way, isolate you from our community, or if you have need for specific accommodations, please speak with me early in the semester about your concerns and what we can do together to help you become an active engaged member of our class and community. Please respect your fellow students’ opinions and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind.

**Class Recording:** You are not allowed to record any portion of this course. In addition, no portion of this course will be recorded by the Law School’s IT department.

**Deadlines and Extensions:**
All written assignments are due on the dates indicated and should be turned in according to the instructions given. Extensions will only be granted before an assignment’s deadline and only in the case of an unforeseeable emergency.

All assignments are due by 9:00 am on the date specified in the syllabus. All assignments (including the simulations) are due electronically, via TWEN. Exceptions will be made in the case of handwritten work product.

**Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices:**
During class, you may not use laptops, cell phones, or other electronic devices in any manner that is likely to interfere with your class participation or that of other students.
General Grading Criteria:
This course will be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. To determine whether a “pass” is warranted, points will be earned for each assignment/exercise. To receive a passing grade, you must earn 450 points total. These points may come from completion or quality points. There will be no distinction in adding up the final points. You will receive specific criteria and directions for each assignment/exercise as it is assigned.

Your grade on assignments/exercises will be based on completion (timely turning in assignments that comply with the given directions) and quality (gradual assimilation and evidence of adopting the necessary skill level for bar exam success). Style (word choice, precision and conciseness) and mechanics (grammar, spelling and other technical aspects) will also be considered on all assignments whether they be completion or quality type assignments.

Points needed for a passing score – 450 (completion (C) and/or quality (Q))

COMMUNICATION:
TWEN:
I will contact you frequently using TWEN – a Westlaw application. Please register for TWEN as soon as possible. You will be asked to provide your email address as part of the registration process. You can reach the TWEN website by going to www.lawschool.westlaw.com, signing in and selecting the course entitled ADVANCED LEGAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIES – Spring 2016 – Professor Ramos-Zimmerman. Please note that TWEN mail will sometimes be sent to your junk or spam folders. Adjust your email settings so that you receive your messages.

Email:
I may communicate with you through your “siu.edu” email accounts. Therefore, you should check your SIU mail regularly. If you use a different e-mail address, you should have your SIU mail forwarded to that address. If, during the course of the semester, you think you have not received group messages sent to your classmates (through TWEN or SIU mail), please consult with IT to solve the problem.

Communicating with the Professor via Email:
While I prefer face to face communication, you may contact me with your questions via email (hramos@siu.edu). While response times will vary, I will make every effort to respond quickly to your messages. On occasion, you may ask a question that is better answered during a face to face meeting. If that is the case, I may request that you see me in person so we can fully discuss your question.

Emergency Procedures:
Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

The goal of this course is to fill in the gap left by the commercial bar course provider and to instill, in students, the skills and confidence necessary to undertake bar study and ultimately be successful on the bar exam. As such, this course will not undertake to provide a review of all the substantive material typically studied in preparation for a bar exam. While some of that substantive material may be used during the course, it will be used as a vehicle for reviewing, learning and instilling the skills necessary for bar exam success. I hope to introduce you to this process of bar study in a way that is engaging and stimulating for you. Still, it will take a great deal of work to understand the concepts associated with this process, but your diligence and commitment to learning will propel you through it. I look forward to exploring the process with you in the coming weeks!  Professor Heidi Ramos-Zimmerman

WEEK ONE (August 25) – Course Introduction (Syllabus, Class Rules, etc.)/Concerns/ Introduction to the Bar Exam/Initial Skills Assessment (10 points (C))/Why People Fail the Bar

TO TURN IN by August 30th:

[ ] Week long law school schedule – include everything (10 points (C))
[ ] Journal answers (20 points (C))

WEEK TWO (September 1) – Video of recent graduate/Study Schedules – macro & micro/Bar Course Lectures/Processing Bar Course Lecture Notes

TO TURN IN by September 6th:

[ ] Two weeks bar exam schedule (14 days) – include everything (10 points (C)/5 points (Q))
[ ] Sample outline that you wrote (most recent) – (5 points (C))
[ ] Watch Panopto video

WEEK THREE (September 8) – Panopto Quiz (10 points (Q))/Moving from the Bar Course Lecture to the Outline Product and from the Outline Product to Memorization/ Multiple Choice Questions/BarBri’s BEAT Contracts Lecture

TO TURN IN on September 13th:

[ ] First part of BEAT Contracts Lecture outline (10 points (C))
[ ] IRAC sample multiple choice question (5 points (C))

WEEK FOUR (September 13th and 14th) – First Conference (sign up on TWEN) – NO CLASS THIS WEEK, but must attend conference. Failure to attend the conference will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the course.

TO TURN IN on September 20th:

[ ] Assigned Multiple Choice Answers - Outlined in IRAC format 10 points (C)/ 5 points (Q)
[ ] Bring a memorization technique to class
WEEK FIVE (September 22) – **Special Multiple Choice Presenter**/Review last assignment/BEAT Contracts Lecture Continued/Bar Exam Essays/Memorization Techniques

*TO TURN IN by September 27th:*

- [ ] 2 Contract Essay Questions/Outline only (will be provided in class), (10 points (C)/5 points (Q) Total)
- [ ] Second part of BEAT Contracts Lecture outline (10 points (C))

WEEK SIX (September 29) – **Special Multiple Choice Presenter**/Review last assignment/Multistate Practice Test (MPT) – Strategies and Techniques/ Using the Outline Product to Answer an Essay Question / Memorization Techniques/BEAT Torts Lecture

*TO TURN IN by October 4th:*

- [ ] First part of BEAT Torts Lecture outline (10 points (C)/5 points (Q))
- [ ] Full Contract Essay Answers (10 points (C)/5 points (Q) each)

WEEK SEVEN (October 4th and 5th) - **Second Conference** (sign up on TWEN) – **NO CLASS THIS WEEK, but must attend conference. Failure to attend the conference will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the course.**

*TO TURN IN by October 11th:*

- [ ] MPT Outline 10 points (C)/10 points (Q)
- [ ] Assigned Multiple Choice Answers - Outlined in IRAC format 10 points (C)/5 points (Q)
- [ ] Journal answer 10 (C)

WEEK EIGHT (October 13) – **Special Multiple Choice Presenter**/ Review last assignment/Second part of BEATS Torts Lecture

*TO TURN IN by October 18th:*

- [ ] Full MPT 20 points (Q)
- [ ] Second Part of BEAT Torts Lecture Outline (10 points (C)/5 points (Q))
- [ ] Assigned Essay Questions-Outlined and Answers. (10 points (C)/5 points (Q) each)

WEEK NINE (October 20) – **Special Multiple Choice Presenter**/Review last assignments/Start BEATS Property Lecture MPT

*TO TURN IN by October 25th:*

- [ ] First part of BEAT Property Lecture Outline (10 points (C)/5 points (Q))
- [ ] Assigned Multiple Choice Questions Outlined in IRAC format (10 points (C)/5 points Q)
WEEK TEN (October 27) - Review last assignment/ Discuss study environment and setting the atmosphere/ Complete BEAT Real Property Lecture

TO TURN IN by November 1st:

[ ] Assigned essay questions (outlines and answers) (10 points (C)/5 points (Q) each)
[ ] Second part of BEAT Property Lecture Outline (10 points (C)/5 points (Q))

WEEK ELEVEN (November 3) - MPT SIMULATION IN CLASS – 50 points (Q); catch up; final assignments distributed; other areas TBA

WEEK TWELVE (November 8-9) – Third Conferences (sign up on TWEN) – NO CLASS THIS WEEK, but must attend conference. Failure to attend the conference will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the course.

TO TURN IN by November 15:
[ ] Journal of Plan for Improvement (Essays, MPT and study schedule) based on conference discussion (20 points (C))

WEEK THIRTEEN (November 17) – SIMULATION IN CLASS/Essays and Multiple Choice – 50 POINTS for each section (Q) – must participate to be considered for a grade of satisfactory for the course. Final Assignments handed out in class.

WEEK FOURTEEN – Thanksgiving Break

WEEK FIFTEEN – Final assignments DUE via TWEN by December 1st at 5:00 p.m.

[ ] MPT, Essays, and Full Bar Schedule: 75 points total Q*

*Failure to tender any of the final assignments will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the course.
## POINT ALLOCATIONS AND ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
<th>COMPLETION POINTS</th>
<th>QUALITY POINTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survey/Questionnaire (in class)</td>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Law school schedule</td>
<td>August 30</td>
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<td>Journal answers</td>
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<td>Two week bar schedule</td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Most recent law school sample outline</td>
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<td>Panopto Quiz</td>
<td>September 8</td>
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<td>First part contracts outline</td>
<td>September 13</td>
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<td>Sample multiple choice question</td>
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<td>Multiple choice questions (in IRAC format)</td>
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<td>MPT (outline only)</td>
<td>October 11</td>
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<td>Multiple choice questions (in IRAC format)</td>
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<td>Multiple choice questions (in IRAC format)</td>
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<td><strong>MPT Simulation must participate to be considered for a grade of satisfactory for the course</strong></td>
<td>November 3</td>
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<td>Journal answer regarding strategy for improvement</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td><strong>Essay and Multiple Choice Simulation</strong> - must participate to be considered for a grade of satisfactory for the course</td>
<td>April 21</td>
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<td><strong>Final Assignments:</strong></td>
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