

SOLVING LEGAL PROBLEMS

Spring 2016

Professor Victoria Wood

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COURSE SYLLABUS

This class meets once per week during the semester. There are 10 homework assignments over the course of the semester. Each homework assignment is worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points for the semester. You must submit the document(s) that the assignment memo for the performance test directed you to create as well as your outline at the beginning of class the week that the assignment is due in order to receive credit.

In weeks 5, 8, 10, 12 and 14 you will take an in-class three-hour performance test. The first exam is worth 20 points. The remaining four exams are worth 120 points each. Please be prepared with your exam number and make appropriate arrangements for utilizing the Exam Soft program in advance of the first examination. There is no final examination.

Exam dates, assignment deadlines, and general syllabus information are subject to change throughout the semester. I reserve the right to modify the class discussion topics and assignment schedule based on our progress and your feedback.

CLASS	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 1 January 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions; purpose and structure of the course, class meetings, weekly assignments, examinations, course grades, and suggestions regarding the California Bar Examination Performance Test.• Introduction to the California Bar Exam Performance Test: Purpose of the test, review each part of the test, tips for completing test, timing, and approaches.• In-class exercise	*No Assignment Due
Week 2 January 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance Test Approach / Preparation Cont'd: Outlining, approaches, organization, and timing.• Objective Exams: Discuss general types and approaches, organization, formatting, and writing tips.	*Adams v. Kustom Spas

Week 3 February 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective Exams: Discuss general types and approaches, organization, and writing tips. • Persuasive Exams: Discuss general types and approaches, organization, formatting, and writing tips. • Review <i>Doral Digestive v. Harris</i> 	<i>*Doral Digestive v. Harris</i>
Week 4 February 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review general timing, approaches, types of exams, formatting, and exam-taking tips. • Review <i>Vasquez v. SpeakEasy</i> 	<i>*Vasquez v. SpeakEasy</i> NOTE: Make sure you have downloaded examsoft and bring your exam number to class for next week.
Week 5 February 17	In-class exam	<i>*State v. Dolan</i>
Week 6 February 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persuasive Exams: Discuss memoranda of points and authorities, approaches, organization, and writing tips. • Review exam, <i>State v. Dolan</i>, <i>Riley Instruments v. LRI</i> 	<i>*Riley Instruments v. LRI</i>
Week 7 March 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review use of law and facts, organizational tips and shortcuts. • Review <i>In re Yamata Logging</i> 	<i>*In re Yamata Logging</i>
Week 8 March 16	In-class exam	
Week 9 March 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review objective and persuasive writing, affidavits, statements of facts. • Review exam, <i>Phoenix Towers v. Porter</i> 	<i>* Phoenix Towers v. Porter</i>
Week 10 March 30	In-class exam	<i>* Tehama County v. Tepee Campground</i>

Week 11 April 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review: Approaches, triggers, timing, formatting, review all parts of test. Overview of “Odd-Ball Tasks”: Drafting statutes, trial preparation worksheets, contracts, etc.; discuss approaches, triggers, organization, and writing tips. Review exam, <i>Tehama County v. Tepee Campground</i> 	* <i>In re Snow King</i>
Week 12 April 13	In-class exam	
Week 13 April 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Performance Test Strategies: General review of all parts of tests, timing, and approaches. Review <i>In re Snow King, Morales v. Parsons</i> 	* <i>Morales v. Parsons</i>
Week 14 April 27	In-class exam	No assignment due

DISABILITY SERVICES STATEMENT:

Western State College of Law provides accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. The **Disabilities** Services Office assists qualified students with disabilities in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations and in supporting equal access to services, programs, and activities at Western State College of Law.

To seek reasonable accommodations, a student must contact Senior Assistant Dean Donna Espinoza, Student Services Director and Disabilities Services Coordinator, whose office is in the Second Floor Students Services Suite. Dean Espinoza’s phone number and email address are: (714) 459-1117; despinoza@wsulaw.edu. When seeking accommodations, a student should notify Dean Espinoza of her or his specific limitations and, if known, her or his specific requested accommodations. Students who seek accommodations will be asked to supply medical documentation of the need for accommodation. Classroom accommodations are not retroactive, but are effective only upon the student sharing approved accommodations with the instructor or professor. Therefore, students are encouraged to request accommodations as early as feasible with Dean Espinoza to allow time to gather necessary documentation. If you have a concern or complaint in this regard, please notify Dean Espinoza; or please notify Associate Dean of Students Charles Sheppard at csheppard@wsulaw.edu or (714) 459-1152. Complaints will be handled in accordance with the College of Law’s “Policy against Discrimination and Harassment.”