

SOLVING LEGAL PROBLEMS

Spring 2014

Professor Victoria Wood

woodwsu@gmail.com / 714-248-0010 – Questions & Office Hours Requests

COURSE SYLLABUS

This class meets once per week during the semester. Each homework assignment must be emailed to me at woodwsu@gmail.com by 6:00 p.m. on the date the assignment is due. Each homework assignment is worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points for the semester. In weeks 5, 8, 10, 12, and 14 you will take an in-class three-hour performance test. Each test is worth 100 points. 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 – Email homework assignments to me at woodwsu@gmail.com before 6:00 p.m. |
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| Week 1 January 12 | <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 26 | <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. | *No Assignment Due |

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| Week 3 February 2 | <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> | *Doral Digestive v. Harris |
| Week 4 February 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review general timing, approaches, types of exams, formatting, and exam-taking tips. Review <i>Vasquez v. SpeakEasy</i> | *Vasquez v. SpeakEasy |
| Week 5 February 17 | In-class exam | *State v. Dolan |
| Week 6 February 23 | <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>Rettick v. Floyd Industries</i> | *Rettick v. Floyd Industries |
| Week 7 March 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review use of law and facts, organizational tips and shortcuts. Review <i>People v. Draper</i> | *People v. Draper |
| Week 8 March 16 | In-class exam | *Phoenix Towers v. Porter |
| 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> | *In re Black |
| Week 10 March 30 | In-class exam | *Peabody v. Middleton |
| 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>In re Black</i>, <i>Peabody v. Middleton</i> | |
| Week 12 April 13 | In-class exam | *Ochoa v. CMH |

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| 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 exam, <i>Ochoa v. CMH</i> | No assignment due |
| 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."