

SOLVING LEGAL PROBLEMS

Section 227C

Fall 2013

Professor April Szabo

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WORKING DRAFT SYLLABUS

This class meets once per week during the semester. All assignments must be completed according to the “Assignments Due” column below, meaning that **you must upload your answer to the TWEN site for this course before class begins at 9:00 a.m.** You must also bring **one hard copy** of your answer with you to class each week. If you choose to handwrite, please turn in one copy of your answer at the beginning of each class period.

In weeks 5, 8, 11 and 14 you will take an in-class three-hour performance test. **You must bring your exam number to each examination; make arrangements to get your exam number before Week 5.** If you will be typing on the California Bar Exam, I strongly suggest that you type most of the in-class examinations. **Make appropriate arrangements for utilizing the ExamSoft program in advance.** There is no final examination.

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

CLASS	IN-CLASS TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE <i>Upload your answer to TWEN before 9:00 a.m. each Saturday and bring one hard copy of each assignment to each class.</i>
Week 1 August 24th	<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.• Discuss documents with objective or fact-gathering component, such as client letters, fact-gathering and preparation for deposition, memoranda on the case, discovery plans, memoranda on preparing clients for depositions or for drafting other discovery plans, memoranda on preparing to interview clients.• Begin <u>Zwier v. Sea Quest</u> - reading the Assigning Memo; formatting the document; beginning an outline/grid/organization tool, and skimming the file.	No Assignment due today.
Week 2 August 31st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review <u>Zwier v. Sea Quest</u> – discuss outline, tasks, and completion issues.• Begin <u>In Re Black</u> – reading assigning memo; outline suggestions; formatting the document; complete timed org. grid/outline.	Due today: <u>Zwier v. Sea Quest</u>

<p>Week 3 Sept. 7th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <u><i>In Re Black</i></u> – discuss org. grid/outline, tasks and completion issues Begin <u><i>Hill v. Hill</i></u> – reading the assigning memo; outline suggestions; formatting the document; complete timed org. grid/outline. 	<p>Due today: <u><i>In Re Black</i></u></p>
<p>Week 4 Sept. 14th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <u><i>Hill v. Hill</i></u> - discuss org. grid/outline, tasks and completion issues Discuss documents with a persuasive emphasis such as memoranda of points and authorities, trial and appellate briefs, closing arguments in trials, affidavits or declarations, negotiation or demand letters, and persuasive memoranda regarding various legal and/or practical issues. Begin <u><i>Property Clerk v. Grinnell</i></u> 	<p>Due today: <u><i>Hill v. Hill</i></u></p> <p><u>Reminder: You need your exam number next week!</u></p>
<p>Week 5 Sept. 21st</p>	<p>Examination #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three hour in-class examination requiring the preparation of documents with an analytical (objective) or and/or fact gathering component. 	<p>Due today: <u><i>Property Clerk v. Grinnell</i></u></p>
<p>Week 6 Sept. 28th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <u><i>Property Clerk v. Grinnell</i></u> Begin <u><i>State v. Dolan</i></u> – reading the assigning memo, formatting the document, tweaking the outline/grid/organization tool and skimming the file. 	<p>No Assignment due today.</p>
<p>Week 7 October 5th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Examination #1 Review <u><i>State v. Dolan</i></u> Begin <u><i>In Re Yamata Logging</i></u> 	<p>Due today: <u><i>State v. Dolan</i></u></p>
<p>Week 8 October 12th</p>	<p>Examination #2</p> <p>Three hour in-class examination requiring preparation of documents with a persuasive component.</p>	<p>Due today: <u><i>In Re Yamata Logging</i></u></p>
<p>Week 9 October 19th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <u><i>State v. Dolan</i></u> Discuss documents and issues that do not fit “neatly” into either an objective or persuasive category, such as wills, pre-counseling and pre-litigation letters, contracts, cross-examination plans, statutes, tactical and ethical issues, etc. Begin <u><i>Peabody v. Middletown</i></u> 	<p>No Assignment due today.</p>
<p>Week 10 October 26th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Exam #2 Review <u><i>Peabody v. Middletown</i></u> Begin <u><i>In re Snow King</i></u> 	<p>Due today: <u><i>Peabody v. Middletown</i></u></p>
<p>Week 11 November 2d</p>	<p>Examination #3</p> <p>Three-hour in-class examination, which may require the preparation of any document.</p>	<p>Due today: <u><i>In Re Snow King</i></u></p>
<p>Week 12 Nov. 9th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <u><i>In re Snow King</i></u> Begin <u><i>People v. Mata</i></u> 	<p>No Assignment due today.</p>

<p>Week 13 Nov. 16th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Examination #3 • Review <u><i>People v. Mata</i></u> • Discuss <u><i>Columbia State University & In re Sunrise Galleria</i></u> • Final Review of performance exam approach notes/materials. 	<p>Due today: <u><i>People v. Mata</i></u></p>
<p>Week 14 Nov. 23rd</p>	<p>Examination #4 Three-hour in-class examination, which may require the preparation of any kind of document.</p>	<p>TBD</p>