

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF LAW

COURSE SYLLABUS AND ASSIGNMENTS

COURSE:	Basic Bar Studies
SEMESTER:	Fall 2016
PROFESSORS:	Blasser (email: lblasser@wsulaw.edu) Manning (email: pmanning@wsulaw.edu) Schindler (email: tschindler@wsulaw.edu) Williams (email: rtwilliams@wsulaw.edu)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The goals of Basic Bar Studies (“BBS”) are: (1) to introduce students to the skills necessary to succeed on the essay and MBE portion of the California Bar Examination, including practice, reflection and self-assessment skills. More specifically, by the end of the course, successful students will have: (1) created an essay approach for each of the seven topics tested on the multi-state bar exam portion of the California bar exam; (2) developed the ability to use issues checklists to write well-organized and thorough essay answers within the one hour allotted by the California Bar Examiners for each essay; (3) developed the ability to identify legal issues on essay and MBE questions; (4) drafted clear, concise and complete rule statements for each subject; (5) developed the ability to identify and analyze legally significant facts; and (6) developed the ability to self-assess their performance on essay and multi-state practice questions, and to use that self-assessment to improve performance.

COURSE METHODOLOGY: This course has been designed as a significant departure from traditional law school instruction and course work because it teaches a set of study skills that are unique to the California Bar Exam—and because it begins your preparation for that exam. Using lectures, outlines and materials created by Kaplan/PMBR or Themis Bar Review, you will follow a rigorous weekly program and become proficient in employing the following skills: (1) viewing substantive lectures and following along in the lecture notes; (2) creating an essay approach; (3) creating an issues checklist; (4) using a 10-step method to identify key facts/issues and outline an essay answer; (5) assessing essays using sample answers; (6) using self-assessment to identify strengths and weaknesses and improve performance; and (7) taking and assessing multi-state bar exam (“MBE”) questions. The semester long course covers these skills in each of the seven subjects tested on the MBE portion of the California Bar Exam. During the fourteen week semester, the BBS course will cover the multi-state subjects of the California Bar Exam; following the conclusion of the course, and leading up to the bar exam, students will follow the same approach and employ the above skills to each of the California subjects as they study on their own with their selected bar preparation company.

COURSE MATERIALS: The required BBS course materials are available from two different commercial bar preparation companies. Students are given the freedom to select the bar preparation company that best suits their personality, learning preference and needs. Students will chose between Kaplan/PMBR (<http://www.kaptest.com/bar-exam>) and Themis Bar Review (<https://www.themisbar.com/>). The fee for either program is \$1,550.00, which includes all

materials for BBS and for post-graduation bar preparation. Students are eligible for reimbursement of these costs through the law school's reimbursement program.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Legal education is a cooperative venture. Class participation therefore is a mandatory part of this course. Any student who is deemed unprepared for class will be treated as absent for that day and a student who is unprepared on two (2) occasions will automatically be withdrawn from the course.

COURSE GRADING: Your grade is based on four components: (1) your score on the midterm (40%); (2) your score on the final examination (40%); (3) the multi-state quizzes and assessment charts you submit every week (10%); and (4) the approaches you submit during the semester (10%). Additionally, for each multi-state quiz/assessment chart and/or approach that you fail to submit, or that does not reflect a good faith effort, one tenth of a point will be deducted from your final course grade (i.e.: if you earn a final grade of 2.5 in the class, your final grade will be reduced to a 2.4, if you do not submit an MBE quiz/assessment or approach, and an additional one-tenth of a point will be deducted for every missed assignment thereafter). Points may also be assigned or deducted from your final grade based on class participation (or lack thereof).

- **After-Class Assignments:** After every class session you will be completing homework assignments. Those assignments will include preparing/completing essay approaches, issues checklists, taking multi-state quizzes and other assignments directed at helping you learn the material and practice the skills on which you will be tested on your midterm, final examination and the California Bar Examination. You will be graded on the extent to which your submissions demonstrate a good faith effort to successfully complete the assignments. Failure to comply with this rule will also result in a deduction from your final course grade, as set out above.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS: Because this class begins your preparation for the bar exam, it requires a substantial amount of work outside of class time. You should expect to spend, on average, between twelve and fifteen hours each week (outside of class) viewing lectures, creating approaches, taking MBE quizzes, and completing assignments.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: If you arrive late to class, leave during class time or depart early (without prior permission), you will be marked absent for that session. If you miss more than two class sessions, you will be withdrawn from the class.

COURSE WEBSITE: Please sign-up for the Basic Bar Studies TWEN course by going to: www.lawschool.westlaw.com. There you will be able to add this course and you will be able to submit assignments in the Assignment Drop Box. There is no password necessary for the BBS TWEN course.

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

Students Services Suite 119. 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 for 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.”

OFFICE HOURS, APPOINTMENTS AND EMAIL: Students may use office hours to address their concerns regarding any of the course material or for other guidance. Sign-up sheets for each professor will be posted outside their offices (Professors Blasser and Williams are located in the first floor faculty suite; Professors Manning and Schindler are located in the third floor faculty suite) on a weekly basis. You may also contact any Professor via email.

ASSIGNMENTS: Below is a list of the subject matter and skills covered during class, and the assignments for each class session.

CLASS	TOPIC/SUBJECT	IN-CLASS SKILL/ASSIGNMENT	AFTER-CLASS ASSIGNMENT
		<p>BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS, please view the following material: KAPLAN: Listen to Real Property Lecture 1, Bar App #2 Tab, 2:19.58 and end at Real Property 2 Lecture, 2:22.48 THEMIS: listen to the lecture segments labeled Real Property, Chapters 13-19 For BOTH Complete Lecture Notes corresponding to each of the segments. Other than the first class session, prior to the first class for each topic, you are responsible for viewing the substantive lecture on the Kaplan or Themis websites and completing the lecture handouts/notes, and accompanying assessments. Always bring your completed lecture notes to class.</p>	
Week 1 8/18	PROPERTY:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CREATING AN ESSAY APPROACH • CREATING AN ISSUE CHECKLIST • USING THE 10 STEPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to remaining Property Lecture and Complete Lecture Notes • Draft Property Essay Approach

CLASS	TOPIC/SUBJECT	IN-CLASS SKILL/ASSIGNMENT	AFTER-CLASS ASSIGNMENT
Week 2 8/25	PROPERTY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • REFLECTION AND REVISING YOUR APPROACH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #1 • Revise/Finalize Property Essay Approach • Create Property Issue Checklist
Week 3 9/1	PROPERTY CON LAW PREVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • MBE APPROACH—TAKING QUESTIONS AND ASSESSING PERFORMANCE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #2¹ • Listen to Con Law Lecture and Complete Lecture Notes; • Draft Con Law Approach
Week 4 9/8	CON LAW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #3 • Revise/Finalize Con Law Essay Approach • Create Con Law Issue Checklist
Week 5 9/15	CON LAW EVIDENCE PREVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • MEMORIZATION 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #4 • Review Evidence Lecture and Complete Lecture Notes • Draft Evidence Approach
Week 6 9/22	EVIDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • CHOOSING THE DEPTH OF YOUR IRAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #5 • Finalize Evidence Essay Approach • Create Evidence Issues Checklist
Week 7 9/29	EVIDENCE CONTRACTS PREVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALLOCATING TIME • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • SELF-ASSESSMENT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #6 • Listen to Contracts Lecture and Complete Lecture Notes • Draft Contracts Approach
Week 8 10/6	CONTRACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • MBE CHECK UP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #7 • Finalize Contracts Essay Approach • Create Contracts Issues Checklist • MBE Reflection
Week 9 10/13	CONTRACTS CIV PRO PREVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #8 • Listen to Civil Procedure Lecture and Complete Lecture Notes • Draft Civil Procedure Essay Approach
MIDTERM: SATURDAY OCTOBER 15, 2016, from 9:00AM-2:00PM			
Week 10 10/20	CIV PRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • THE MENTAL GAME 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #9 • Finalize Civil Procedure Essay Approach • Create Civil Procedure Issues Checklist

¹ For each MBE Quiz from this point forward you should complete the questions, then, following the format discussed during week 3, complete the assessment charts, flashcards, and reflection. Turn in your chart and reflection the following week.

CLASS	TOPIC/SUBJECT	IN-CLASS SKILL/ASSIGNMENT	AFTER-CLASS ASSIGNMENT
Week 11 10/27	CIV PRO CRIM LAW PREVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • MBE CHECK UP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #10 • Listen to Criminal Law Lecture and Complete Lecture Notes • Draft Criminal Law Essay Approach
Week 12 11/3	CRIM LAW CRIM PRO PREVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • ADVERBS AND ADJECTIVES IN ESSAYS AND MBEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #11 • Finalize Criminal Law Essay Approach • Create Criminal Law Issues Checklist • Listen to Criminal Procedure Lecture and Complete Lecture Notes • Draft Criminal Procedure Approach
Week 13 11/10	CRIM PRO TORTS PREVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #12 • Finalize Criminal Procedure Essay Approach • Create Criminal Procedure Issues Checklist • Listen to Torts Lecture and Complete Lecture Notes • Draft Torts Essay Approach
Week 14 11/17	TORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSAY WRITING • ESSAY ASSESSMENT • CREATING A SUCCESSFUL STUDY PLAN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete MBE Quiz #13 • Finalize Torts Essay Approach • Create Torts Issues Checklist • MBE Reflection • Review Bar Prep Calendar

Western State College of Law – Programmatic Learning Outcomes

Western State College of Law’s curriculum is designed so that every student achieves a level of competency prior to graduation in each of the eight Programmatic Learning Outcomes listed below:

(1) **Doctrinal Knowledge**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of substantive and procedural law in the core curriculum subjects, including Contracts, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Torts, Real Property, Business Association, Evidence, Civil Procedures, Constitutional Law, Estates, Community Property, Remedies, and Professional Responsibility.

(2) **Practice Skills**

Students will demonstrate the development of other law practice skills. Each student’s chosen outcomes within this category will be varied based on the student’s particular interests, coursework and work experiences. They may include, but are not limited to, the following topics: oral presentation and advocacy; interviewing; counseling; client service and business development; negotiations, mediation, arbitration, or other alternate dispute resolution methods; advanced legal research and writing (excluding purely academic papers and the first four units earned in introductory first-year legal research and writing class); applied legal writing such as drafting contracts, pleadings, other legal instruments; law practice management or the use of technology in law practice; cultural competency; collaboration or project management; financial analysis, such as accounting, budgeting project management, and valuation; cost benefit analysis in administrative agencies; use of technology, data analyses, or predictive coding; business strategy and behavior; pre-trial preparation, fact investigation, such as discovery, e-discovery, motion practice, assessing evidence, or utilizing experts; trial practice; professional civility and applied ethics; a law clinic that includes a classroom component; or a legal externship that includes a classroom component.

(3) **Legal Analysis**

Students will demonstrate the ability to identify the factual and legal issues implicated by a fact pattern and to appropriately use cases (including identifying the salient features of an appropriate precedent case, identifying legally significant similarities or differences between the precedent case and a fact pattern and explaining why those are legally significant) and rules (including the ability to connect legally significant facts in a fact pattern to the rule) to predict how a court would decide the issue. Students will also demonstrate the ability to identify and evaluate the public policies of a precedent case or rule, and be able to evaluate how public policy can impact the application of a rule to the legal issue.

(4) **Legal Research**

Students will demonstrate the ability to locate relevant legal authority using a variety of book and electronic resources, and to properly cite to such legal authority.

(5) **Communication**

Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate both orally and in writing in a manner appropriate to a particular task to effectively convey the author or speaker’s ideas. This includes audience sensitivity in written and oral communication (the ability to adopt a tone, style and level of detail appropriate to the needs, knowledge and expertise of the audience); and written communication basic proficiency (the ability to use the conventions of grammar, spelling, punctuation, diction and usage appropriate to the task and sufficient to convey effectively the author’s ideas).

(6) Advocacy of Legal Argument

Students will demonstrate the ability, in both oral and written formats, to evaluate the legal, economic and social strengths and weaknesses of a case and use case and statutory authority as well as public policy to persuade others. Making policy-based arguments includes the ability to identify and evaluate the public policies of a precedent case or rule and their implications, and be able to assert such appropriate arguments to support a particular application or distinction of a precedent case to a legal controversy or a particular resolution of the application of a rule to the legal controversy.

(7) Client Sensitivity and Cultural Competency

Students will demonstrate an awareness of clients' needs and goals, including a sensitivity to clients' background and circumstances (including, but not limited to, socio-economic, gender, race, ethnicity, educational, disability and/or religious background(s)), the ability to make decisions that reflect an appropriate focus on those needs and goals, and awareness that cultural issues may affect the relevance of facts and application of the law.

(8) Legal Ethics

Students will demonstrate the ability to identify ethical issues in law practice contexts and make appropriate decisions to resolve such issues.

Argosy University

Institutional Learning Outcomes:

1. Analytical Reasoning

Analyze issues objectively, interpret and synthesize data and ideas, and develop feasible, flexible, and creative solutions to real world problems

2. Effective Communication

Identify audiences, assess information provided, interpret needs, and present relevant information using appropriate written, oral, and listening skills and media to meet the needs of the situation

3. Information Competency

Gather, evaluate, and ethically use information from a variety of relevant technological and library resources to make decisions and take action

4. Interpersonal Effectiveness

Develop individual and group interpersonal skills to improve and foster participation and interaction critical for achieving individual and group goals

5. Personal and Professional Integrity and Ethical Behavior

Demonstrate a multi dimensional awareness of individual and social responsibility to act ethically and with integrity in a diverse, global society.

6. Professional Competence

Apply skills appropriate to program objectives and employ critical reasoning to contribute to one's field and profession