# FALL 2022 BASIC BAR STUDIES

Western State College of Law at Westcliff University

COURSE SYLLABUS AND ASSIGNMENTS Essay Class Tuesdays 6:40-9:50 Rm FA203 MBE Class Thursdays 6:40-9:50 Rm FA307

#### **Professor:**

Professor Tania Shah (tshah@wsulaw.edu)

Semester: Fall 2022

*Course Website:* Please sign up for the **FALL 2022 BBS TWEN** Course. All of your materials will be posted there.

Office Hours:

Professor Shah (<u>tshah@wsulaw.edu</u>): Thursdays 4-6 and by appointment; Sign-Up Sheet on TWEN for In-Person Office Hours)

Course Objectives: The goals of Basic Bar Studies ("BBS") are to introduce students to the skills necessary to succeed on the essay, multi-state bar exam ("MBE") and Performance Test sections of the California Bar Examination. By the end of the course, successful students will have: (1) created an attack sheet for three topics tested on the essay 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) developed the ability to identify and analyze legally significant facts; (5) developed a strategy for organizing an answer to a performance exam; (6) practiced writing answers to essay and performance exams; (7) practiced doing and reviewing MBE questions; and (8) developed the ability to self-assess their performance on essay, multi-state and performance exam practice questions.

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 materials created by 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 attack sheet; (3) creating an issues checklist; (4) using a method to identify key facts/issues and outline an essay answer; (5) writing and assessing essays exams using sample answers and rubrics; (6) taking and assessing MBE questions; (7) developing a strategy for organizing the file and library of a 90-minute performance exam; (8) writing and assessing

performance exams using sample answers and rubrics.

During the fourteen-week semester, this course will cover the three components of the California Bar Exam: The Essay Portion; the Performance Test and the MBE. For the Essay and MBE topics, we will cover five subjects. Following the conclusion of the course, and leading up to the bar exam, you will then follow the same approach for each of the remaining subjects, as well as engage in additional practice and review of each testable subject, the Performance Test and the MBE, as you study on your own with your selected bar preparation company.

*Course Materials*: The required BBS course materials will be provided from Themis, a commercial bar preparation company, as well as a BBS Workbook from your professor. The fee for the Themis program is \$1,595.00, which includes all materials for BBS and for the post- graduation bar preparation.

*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.

#### Requirements for In-Person Class:

- Arrive to class early
- Come prepared to class
- Do not multitask on your computer stay focused on the class discussion
- If you have to miss a class, or arrive late or leave early, notify the professor in advance.
- Be ready to participate in class

#### Requirements for Zoom Session (if any):

- Find a dedicated quiet space to attend Zoom sessions, to minimize the chances that you will be disrupted during the session.
- Arrive to class early and dressed as you would to attend an in-person class.
- Your camera must be turned on for the duration of the class. If desired, you can use the background settings in Zoom to create an artificial background that blocks the view of your space while still allowing you to be seen on camera.
- Do not multitask stay focused on the class discussion do not wander in and out of the Zoom session.
- Do not post screenshots or recordings of any Zoom classes on social media. Such actions would constitute a violation of the Student Honor Code. If you need access to a recording of the Zoom session, please contact your professor.
- Unless your professor instructs you otherwise, mute your microphone when you

are not speaking. Unmute to speak or to ask or answer questions.

*Course Grading:* You will receive two separate grades for the course.

Your grade for the Essay/PT class (3 units) is based on the following four components:

- (1) your score on the written portion of the midterm (25%);
- (2) your score on the written portion of the final examination (45%);
- (3) MiniEssays, Attack Sheets and Participation during the semester (15%).
- (4) four (4) mandatory writing assignments (essays/PT) you submit during the semester (15%)

Your grade for the MBE class (3 units) is based on the following four components:

- (1) your score on the MBE portion of the midterm (30%);
- (2) your score on the MBE portion of the final examination (40%);
- (3) completion of viewing your lectures online, completing the lecture workbooks, BBS Workbook Review Sheets and Participation (20%); and (4) completion of weekly MBE Homework (10%).

You will not be graded on the accuracy of your answers to the weekly MBE quizzes, but rather on your timely submission of the work and your improvement throughout the course.

After-Class Assignments: After every class session you will be completing homework assignments. Those assignments will include drafting mini essays, preparing/completing attack sheets, issues checklists, taking MBE 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. For each assignment, including each MBE quiz, essay answer, attack sheets, mini essay or performance exam assignment that you fail to submit, or that does not reflect a good faith effort, your final grade will be effected as percentage points will be deducted from the total amount you may earn for these assignments. Points may also be assigned or deducted from your final grade based on class participation (or lack thereof).

Homework Expectations and Time Commitment: 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, at least two hours of preparation for every one hour of class time; more specifically, between twelve and fifteen hours per subject viewing lectures, and an additional twelve to fifteen hours per subject creating attack sheets and completing miniessays, and approximately two to four hours each week 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.

*Disability Services:* 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. Dean Espinoza's phone number and email address are: (714) 459-1117; <a href="mailto:despinoza@wsulaw.edu">despinoza@wsulaw.edu</a>. 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 Dean Allen Easley at <a href="mailto:aeasley@wsulaw.edu">aeasley@wsulaw.edu</a> or (714) 459-1168. 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. You sign up for Professor Shah's office hours on her TWEN Course: Professor Shah's Fall 2022 Office Hours.

Assignments and Class Times: Below is a list of the subject matter and skills covered during class, and the assignments for each class session. This list is not exhaustive and may be amended as needed (additional assignments will be assigned and distributed during class).

# BBS MBE CLASS (Thursdays 6:40-9:50pm) ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK	DATE	SUBJECT/TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (Due Before Next Class)
	Prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> class	Please Ensure That You:  Skim your outlines Fill in your Workbook Do the Assessment Questions	Watch CA Bar Exam & MBE     Overview lecture (link to zoom     lecture will be emailed out via     TWEN)     On Themisbar.com:     Watch Themis General MBE     Approach Part I & II     Watch Themis MBE Approach —     Torts     Module I: View Torts Lecture     Chapters 1-3     Module II: View Torts Lecture     Chapters 4-14
1	8/25	Introduction to MBE Exam & MBE Skills; Torts - Intentional Torts & Negligence MBE  In-Class Practice: ThemisBar.com Torts Session #1 - 15 MBE Questions Torts Session #2 - 15 MBE Questions	Homework Practice Questions:     Ip.uworld.com         Complete Torts Homework         Session #1 – 15 MBE         Questions         Complete Torts Homework         Session #2 – 15 MBE         Questions         Homework Lectures:         ThemisBar.com             Module III: View Torts             Lecture Chapters 15-17             Module IV: View Torts Lecture             Chapters 18-20
2	9/1	MBE: Torts – Strict & Products Liability and Defamation, Privacy Torts & Business Torts  In-Class Practice: ThemisBar.com Torts Session #3 - 15 MBE Questions Torts Session #4 - 15 MBE Questions	Homework Practice Questions:     Ip.uworld.com     Complete Torts Homework     Session #3 - 15 MBE     Questions     Complete Torts Homework     Session #4 - 15 MBE     Questions     Complete at submit Torts     Review Worksheet from BBS     Workbook     Homework Lectures:     ThemisBar.com     Watch Themis MBE Approach —     Contracts     Module I: View Contracts &     Sales Lecture Chapters 1-7     Module II: View Contracts & Sales

			Lecture Chapters 8-11
			• Homework Practice Questions:
3	9/8	MBE: Contracts — Formation, Defenses & Statute of Frauds  In-Class Practice: ThemisBar.com  Complete Contracts Session #1 - 15 MBE Questions Complete Contracts Session #2 - 15 MBE Questions	Ip.uworld.com
4	9/15	MBE: Contracts – PER, Performance, Remedies & Third Parties  In-Class Practice: ThemisBar.com  Complete Contracts Session #3 - 15 MBE Questions  Complete Contracts Session #4 - 15 MBE Questions	Homework Practice Questions:     Ip.uworld.com     Complete Contracts     Homework Session #3 - 15     MBE Questions     Complete Contracts     Homework Session #4 - 15     MBE Questions     Complete at submit Contracts     Review Worksheet from BBS     Workbook     Homework Lectures:     ThemisBar.com     Watch Themis MBE     Approach — Real Property     Lecture Chapters 1-10     Module II: View Real Property     Lecture Chapters 11-14
5	9/22	MBE: Property – Ownership and Landlord Tenant  In-Class Practice: ThemisBar.com  ■ Complete Real Property Session #1 - 15	Homework Practice Questions:     lp.uworld.com         Complete Real Property         Session #1 - 15 MBE Questions         Complete Real Property         Session #2 - 15 MBE Questions         Homework Lectures:         ThemisBar.com             Module III: View Real             Property Lecture Chapters

		MBE Questions  • Complete Real Property Session #2 - 15 MBE Questions	15-21 • Module IV: View Real Property Lecture Chapters 22-26
6	9/29	MBE: Property — Disputes about Ownership and Disputes about Use  In-Class Practice: ThemisBar.com  Complete Real Property Session #2 - 15 MBE Questions Complete Real Property Session #3 - 15 MBE Questions	Homework Practice Questions:     lp.uworld.com     Complete Real Property     Homework Session #3 - 15 MBE     Questions     Complete Real Property     Homework Session #4 - 15 MBE     Questions     Complete at submit Property     Review Worksheet from BBS     Workbook
7	10/6	MBE: Review Torts, Contracts and Property Review Worksheets In Class	STUDY FOR YOUR MIDTERM
8	10/13	BBS MBE MIDTERM (50 MBE Questions/2 hours)	<ul> <li>Module I: Review Evidence Lecture Chapters 1-5</li> <li>Module II: Review Evidence Lecture Chapters 6-12</li> </ul>
9	10/20	MBE: Evidence – Presentation of Evidence, Relevance, Character/Habit Evidence, Witness and Tangible Evidence	Do Cumulative MBE Practice Set #1  Homework Practice Questions: lp.uworld.com Complete Evidence Homework Session #1 - 15 MBE Questions Complete Evidence Homework Session #2 - 15 MBE Questions Homework Lectures: ThemisBar.com Module III: Review View

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		ThemisBar.com	Evidence Lecture
		• Complete Evidence Session #1 - 15 MBE	Chapters 13-16
		Questions	Module IV: Review Evidence     Asserting 47, 22
		Complete Evidence Session #2 - 15 MBE     Questions	Lecture Chapters 17-23
			Homework Practice Questions:
10			lp.uworld.com
	10/27		<ul> <li>Complete Evidence</li> </ul>
		MBE:	Homework Session #3 – 15
		Evidence –	MBE Questions
		Privileges, Policy	<ul> <li>Complete Evidence</li> </ul>
		Exclusions, and	Homework Session #4 - 15
		Hearsay	MBE Questions
		In-Class Practice:	<ul> <li>Do Cumulative MBE Practice Set #2</li> </ul>
		ThemisBar.com	Complete at submit Evidence
		Complete Evidence Session #3 - 15 MBE	Review Worksheet from BBS
		Questions	Workbook
		Complete Evidence Session #4 - 15 MBE	<ul><li>Homework Lectures:</li></ul>
			ThemisBar.com
			<ul> <li>Watch Themis MBE</li> </ul>
			Approach – Constitutional Law
			<ul> <li>Module I: View/Review</li> </ul>
			Constitutional Law Lecture
			Chapters 1-5
			<ul> <li>Module II: View/Review</li> </ul>
			Constitutional Law Lecture
			Chapters 6-9
			Homework Practice Questions:
11			lp.uworld.com
	11/3		<ul> <li>Complete Constitutional Law</li> </ul>
			Homework Session #1 - 15
		MBE:	MBE Questions
		Constitutional Law – Judicial, Legislative, and	<ul> <li>Complete Constitutional Law</li> </ul>
		Executive Powers; The Federal System and Due	Homework Session #2 - 15
		Process	MBE Questions
			Homework Lectures:
		In-Class Practice: ThemisBar.com	ThemisBar.com
		Complete Constitutional Law Session #1 -	Module III: View/Review
		15 MBE Questions	Constitutional Law Lecture
		Complete Constitutional Law Session #2 -	Chapters 10-12
		15 MBE Questions	Module IV: View/Review
			Constitutional Law Lecture
			Chapters 13-16

12	11/10	MBE:  Constitutional Law – Equal Protection and The First Amendment  In-Class Practice: ThemisBar.com  • Complete Constitutional Law Session #3 - 15 MBE Questions  • Complete Constitutional Law Session #4 - 15 MBE Questions	Homework Practice Questions:     Ip.uworld.com     Complete Constitutional Law     Homework Session #3 - 15     MBE Questions     Constitutional Law     Homework Session #4 - 15     MBE Questions     Complete at submit Con Law     Review Worksheet from BBS     Workbook
13	11/17	MBE: Mixed Review Review Evidence and Con Law Mixed Review Worksheets In Class	
14	12/1	MBE: Mixed Review All 5 subjects	

Final Exam (6.5 hours total + lunch) 100 MBE Questions, 2 Essays, 1 PT

# BBS ESSAY CLASS (Tuesdays 6:40-9:50 pm) ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK	DATE	SUBJECT/TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (Due Before Next Class)
	Prior to First Class	1. Review Intro PowerPoint on TWEN 2. Review Calibration Memo on TWEN 3. Read BBS Workbook Pages T.B.A. on TWEN (hard-copy to be distributed in class) 4. Review Torts Big Picture in BBS Workbook 5. Review Torts Charts in BBS Workbook	
1	8/30	Introduction to Bar Exam and Essay Writing	<ul> <li>Complete &amp; Submit Attack Sheets for:</li> <li>Intentional Torts + Defenses</li> <li>Negligence</li> </ul>
2	9/6	Torts Intentional Torts & Negligence	<ul> <li>Complete and Submit Torts         MiniEssays</li> <li>Complete &amp; Submit Attack         sheets for:         <ol> <li>Products Liability                 (Negligent and Strict)</li> <li>Strict Liability</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
3	9/13	Torts Essay  - Strict & Products  Liability and  Defamation, Privacy  Torts & Business Torts	<ul> <li>Torts Essay Writing         Assignment</li> <li>Review Contracts Big Picture in         Workbook</li> <li>Review Contracts Charts in         Workbook</li> <li>Complete &amp; Submit Attack         sheets for:         <ol> <li>Formation</li> <li>Defenses (including SOF)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
4	9/20	Contracts Formation, Defenses & Statute of Frauds	<ul> <li>Complete and Submit Contracts MiniEssays</li> <li>Complete &amp; Submit Attack sheets for:</li> <li>1. PER</li> <li>2. Performance</li> <li>3. Remedies</li> </ul>

5	9/27	Contracts Contracts – PER, Performance, Remedies & Third Parties	Contracts Essay Writing Assignment  Review Property Big Picture in Workbook  Review Property Charts in Workbook  Complete & Submit Attack sheets for:  Present and Future Interests  Concurrent Estates  Landlord Tenant
6	10/4	Property Ownership and Landlord Tenant	<ul> <li>Complete and Submit Property MiniEssays</li> <li>Complete &amp; Submit Attack sheets for: <ol> <li>Land Sale Contracts</li> <li>Recordings Acts</li> <li>Easements</li> <li>4. Covenants;</li> <li>5. Equitable Servitudes</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
7	10/11	Property Disputes about Ownership and Disputes about Use	Study For Your Midterm
8	10/18	BBS ESSAY MIDTERM (2 Essays/2 hours)	<ul> <li>Review Evidence Big Picture in Workbook</li> <li>Review Evidence Charts in Workbook</li> <li>Complete &amp; Submit Attack sheets for:         <ol> <li>Relevance</li> <li>Character</li> <li>Witnesses</li> <li>Tangible Evidence</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
9	10/25	Evidence Presentation of Evidence, Relevance, Character/Habit Evidence, Witness and Tangible Evidence	<ul> <li>Complete Evidence         MiniEssays</li> <li>Complete Attack sheets         for:         <ol> <li>Hearsay</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
10	11/1	<b>Evidence:</b> Privileges, Policy	Review Con Law Big     Picture in Workbook

		Exclusions, and Hearsay	<ul> <li>Review Con Law Essay         Approach in         Workbook</li> <li>Review Con Law         Charts in Workbook</li> <li>Complete and submit         attack sheets for the         following:             <ol></ol></li></ul>
11	11/8	Con Law: Judicial, Legislative, and Executive Powers; The Federal System and Due Process	<ul> <li>Complete Con Law         MiniEssays</li> <li>Complete Attack Sheets for         <ol> <li>First Amendment                 Freedom of Speech</li> <li>First Amendment                 Freedom of Religion</li> <li>Equal Protection</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
12	11/15	Con Law: Equal Protection and The First Amendment	Con Law Essay Writing Assignment Review Professional Responsibility Modules
13	11/22	Objective Performance Test  Professional Responsibility	<ul> <li>Objective Performance Test         Writing Assignment</li> <li>Review Professional         Responsibility Modules</li> </ul>
14	11/29	Persuasive Performance Test  Professional Responsibility	

Final Exam (6.5 hours total + 60 minutes for lunch) 100 MBE Questions, 2 Essays, 1 PT 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, socioeconomic, 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.