Fall 2017 Workshop Descriptions

Study Strategies for Understanding Civil Procedure, Contracts, and Substantive Criminal Law

So many readings to do, so little time to do them! This is the main challenge for all students new to the study of law. Mastery of legal subjects assumes familiarity and expertise with foundational knowledge of the law in each subject. This takes time. Students new to the study of law often lack the requisite familiarity or expertise needed upfront, and they definitely do not have enough time to figure things out on their own. Learning appropriate study strategies for gaining understanding of legal concepts sooner rather than later is helpful.

This workshop will give the fall semester a jump-start for 1Ls who want to hit the ground running. Participants will get an overview, scope, and study tips on each of the three 1L courses for the fall semester.

Study Smart: Essential Skills & Tips for Law School Success

Academic success in law school is about being flexible enough to adopt proven learning and study strategies early in the semester.

The goal of this workshop is two-fold:

First, you will get tips needed to stay on top of voluminous reading assignments while mastering many new legal concepts. We will discuss the best ways to prepare for a law class, take effective notes in a Socratic style class discussion, and how to effectively manage time and get organized.

Second, we will examine practical ways to understand legal reasoning-- an essential skill for mastering the law school curriculum. Legal reading is specialized reading which requires application of critical and analytical skills to “get it”. We will focus on how to hone the skills you already have to master what your professors expect of you: read and think like a lawyer so you can learn to speak and write like one.

“Outlining” Course Materials for Optimizing Academic Performance

The first step to ensuring success on law school exams is to get organized early, properly, and continually. This workshop is designed to give you tips for putting together bits, pieces, and piles of course materials (class notes, case law, legal principles, rules, statutes, etc.) into a manageable and organized outline to be used as study aid for final exams.

We will discuss the pros and cons of self-created outlines, peer-shared outlines, as well as commercial outlines.

Practical Legal Research Tools and Tips

Legal research requires knowledge of a variety of specialized legal resources and is a key tool for success in writing for LRW class or term papers. These practice tools can assist you in locating hot topics in your area of interest, finding scholarly research literature on your selected topic, and much more.

Please join us for a workshop designed to teach you how to use these legal tools for your writing assignments or term papers. Learn skills and get tips for selecting and navigating legal databases that will make your legal research effective, comprehensive, and efficient.
Tips for Mid-Term--Issue Spotting & Legal Analysis

Mid-terms are around the corner. You need to learn two skills to do well: issue-spotting and the legal analysis of each issue. Issue spotting involves paying meticulous attention to relevant details in order to ascertain that correct legal analysis is done. This workshop will provide practical tips for teasing out issues in a typical law question. We will also focus on the art of analyzing legal issues to arrive at soundly reasoned conclusions.

Practical Writing and Citation Tips

One of the most challenging aspects of legal academic and scholarly writing is properly citing your research in Bluebook format. In this session, participants will review why, when, and how to cite and to identify and assess tools that help authors collect and organize their citation data, create long-lasting links, and craft accurate Bluebook citations.

*Suggested for:* 2Ls, 3Ls, and graduate law students writing papers and scholarly works.

Preparing and Studying for Finals

It is about two-thirds through the semester. And yes, it is time to start thinking practically about the end of the semester. This workshop will focus on the important considerations for intentionally preparing to do your best on finals.

We will address the how, what, and when of exam prep. We will highlight pitfalls to avoid when taking law exams, how to prep for and take open book and take-home exams, and how to best position yourself to do well on your finals.

Strategies for Writing Essay Qs on Law Exams

Dean Margaret Raymond is our guest presenter and she will discuss exam-taking strategies for essay questions on Law School exams. Learn the essential tips for writing very good essay answers.

Dean Raymond brings a wealth of experience and expertise:

- Years of classroom experience as a law professor
- Practical “know-how’s” as a top-ranking student at Columbia
- Experience grading law essay answers

Plan to attend!

Outreach by Law Journals/Moot Court/Mock Trial

The ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, is the most essential skill for litigators, transactional experts, judicial clerks, and professors alike. Whether you are interested in public interest, firms of any size, government work, or something else, being able to communicate effectively will set you apart from other people (in a good way).

UW Law offers many opportunities to hone your communication skills; the two that offer you the most hands-on experiences are participation in a law journal and/or moot court competitions. This outreach will allow you to gain more information on how to participate directly from the presidents and editor in chiefs of these organizations.