

**PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS – A FINAL SYLLABUS WILL BE  
DISTRIBUTED THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS**

**Legal Writing I – Fall 2010 Syllabus**

**Legal Writing Sections D and I**

Beth Honetschlager

Email: [bhonetschlager@hamline.edu](mailto:bhonetschlager@hamline.edu)

Office phone: 651-523-2068

Office: 233W

Office hours: To be announced

**Introduction**

Hamline Law School's first-year Legal Research and Writing course is designed to help you develop effective legal research and writing skills in a supportive environment. In this course you will learn how to locate and analyze legal reference materials relevant to hypothetical problems and how to write the results of your analysis in a concise, logical manner. Like other first-year courses, Legal Research and Writing will teach you how to "think like a lawyer."

Class will meet for two class hours per week except as otherwise indicated on the syllabus. Please note that this syllabus is intended to serve as a guide to the material to be discussed each week, and it may be modified as the semester proceeds. Most readings will not be discussed in class. I will announce modifications of the syllabus as far in advance as possible.

**Class Schedules**

**Section D**

Monday and Wednesday 4:00-4:50 p.m. in Room 240A

Teaching Assistant: Amanda Kilen

**Section I**

Monday and Wednesday 1:00-1:50 p.m. in Room 4

Teaching Assistant: Brian Christiansen

**Graded Assignments**

See the Student Manual for assignment point values. The assignments for which you will receive grades during fall semester are:

- One Case Legal Analysis. This assignment will be distributed in the first class of Week 2 and is due at the beginning of class on September 8.
- Closed Office Memorandum. This assignment will be distributed on the first day of class and is due in the Registrar's Office by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 4.
- Research Memorandum. This assignment will be distributed in class during Week 7 and is due in the Registrar's Office by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 15.

- Three mandatory tutorials, held during Weeks 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12.
- Nine research exercises.
- Eight citation exercises.
- Research and citation exam.

## **Textbooks**

Required textbooks (you will use these books both semesters):

- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et al. eds., 19th ed. 2010) ISBN 9780615361161 ("the Bluebook").
- Linda H. Edwards, Legal Writing: Process, Analysis, and Organization (5th ed., Aspen Publishers 2010) ISBN 978-0-7355-8514-0 ("Edwards").
- Tracy L. McGaugh & Christine Hurt, Interactive Citation Workbook for The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 2010 Edition (LexisNexis 2010) ("ICW"). Note: you must buy the 2010 edition; it may not be available until early September.
- Michael D. Murray & Christy H. DeSanctis, Legal Research Methods (Foundation Press 2009) ISBN 978-1-59941-396-9 ("Murray & DeSanctis"). Note: be sure to get the 2009 edition; an earlier edition has the same name but is not the same book.

Recommended books for fall and spring semesters – I suggest that you examine these books (in the book store, library, or my office) or consult with me before purchasing them. You are not required to buy these books:

- Linda J. Barris, Understanding and Mastering The Bluebook: A Guide for Students and Practitioners (2d ed., Carolina Academic Press 2010) (publication expected in August; the first edition corresponds to the 18th edition of the Bluebook, but may nevertheless be useful).
- Alan L. Dworsky, User's Guide to The Bluebook (publication expected in late summer or early fall; the 2006 edition corresponds to the 18th edition of the Bluebook, but may nevertheless be useful).
- Bryan A. Garner, Legal Writing in Plain English: A Text with Exercises (U. of Chi. Press 2001) ISBN 0-226-28418-2.
- Bryan A. Garner, The Redbook: A Manual on Legal Style (2d ed., Thomson/West 2006) ISBN 978-0-314-16891-7.
- David S. Romantz & Kathleen Elliott Vinson, Legal Analysis: The Fundamental Skill (2d ed., Carolina Academic Press 2009) ISBN 978-1-59460-279-5.
- Richard Wydick, Plain English for Lawyers (5th ed., Carolina Academic Press 2005) ISBN 1-56460-151-8.

Fall Sem. Week	Monday Class	Wednesday Class
<p><b>Week 1</b> (8/23)</p> <p>2 classes</p>	<p><u>Topics covered</u> Course introduction, policies, and procedures; introduction to Closed Memo assignment</p> <p><u>Read by today</u> Edwards Introduction; Ch. 1: First Things First</p> <p><u>Assigned</u> Closed Memo (due Oct. 4)</p>	<p><u>Topics covered</u> Course policies; course handbook; reading cases; briefing cases; kinds and weight of legal authorities; court system; formulating a rule</p> <p><u>Read by today</u> Syllabus Student Handbook Edwards Ch. 2: Outlining a Rule of Law; Ch. 3: Outlining a Rule to Organize Your Analysis; Ch. 4: Formulating a Rule from a Case Opinion</p> <p><u>Assigned</u> Brief Closed Memo cases for Monday</p>
<p><b>Week 2</b> (8/30)</p> <p>2 classes</p>	<p><u>Topics covered</u> Case analysis; Closed Memo cases; One Case Legal Analysis assignment; formulating a rule; paradigm for legal analysis</p> <p><u>Read by today</u> Edwards Ch. 7: Rule Explanation; Ch. 8: Rule Application</p> <p><u>Assigned</u> One Case Legal Analysis (due Sept. 8)</p> <p><u>Due</u> Briefs of Closed Memo cases</p>	<p><u>Topics covered</u> One Case Legal Analysis; formulating a rule; case analysis; paradigm for legal analysis; introduction to the Bluebook and citation; case citation</p> <p><u>Read by today</u> Bluebook: skim pp. 1-27 ICW Ch.1: Case Names, Ch. 2: Case Location</p> <p><u>Assigned</u> ICW Ex. 1 ICW Ex. 2 (problems 1-8)</p>

<p><b>Week 3</b> (9/6)</p> <p>2 classes</p> <p><b>Labor Day—No class Mon.</b></p> <p><b>Class on Wed. and Thu. or Fri. this week</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday Class</b></p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> Formulating a rule from several cases; case citation</p> <p><u>Read by today</u> Edwards Ch. 5: Formulating a Rule from Multiple Authorities ICW Ch. 3: Court &amp; Date; Ch. 5: Short Forms (Cases)</p> <p><u>Assigned</u> ICW Ex. 3 ICW Ex. 5</p> <p><u>Due</u> One Case Legal Analysis ICW Ex. 1 ICW Ex. 2 (problems 1-8)</p> <p><u>Notes</u> No class Monday (Labor Day). Two classes this week: Wednesday and Thursday or Friday.</p>	<p><b>Thursday or Friday Class (day, time, and place to be announced)</b></p> <p><u>Topics covered</u> Introduction to research &amp; research process (librarian lecture)</p> <p><u>Read by today</u> Murray &amp; DeSanctis Ch. 1: Introduction to Legal Research</p> <p><u>Assigned</u> Introduction to research and the library research exercise</p> <p><u>Notes</u> Class time and place to be announced</p>
--	---	--