



COURSE SYLLABUS

Faculty: **Professor Kelly Mickelson**

Course: **Multistate Performance Test (MPT) Preparation**

Semester: **Spring 2011**

Meeting Schedule: **Saturday, 1:15pm – 3:00pm**

Room: **Law 4 (basement)**

Textbook	<i>There are no required texts for this course (all materials will be provided on TWEN).</i>
Author	
Title and edition of text	
Publisher/year	
ISBN	

Introduction:

Welcome to the Multistate Performance Test Preparation course.

Most bar exams include the Multistate Performance Test (MPT), which presents 90-minute skills questions covering legal and fact analysis, problem solving, the resolution of ethical dilemmas, communication, and the organization and management of a lawyering task. This class will focus on preparation for the MPT by providing an overview of the required skills and helpful tips regarding success strategies. Even more importantly, you will actually take several practice MPT exams, receiving meaningful feedback regarding strengths and weaknesses.

This is a one credit course, graded on a pass/no pass basis. Also, the class will only be held for the first 7 Saturdays of the Spring 2011 semester (January 15-February 26).

Learning Outcomes for the Course:

Prepare you to write a passing answer on the Multistate Performance Test on a bar examination by:

- Enhancing your legal writing skills (more detail below)
- Refining your legal analysis skills (more detail below)
- Managing the time-limit pressures
- Learning how to manage test anxiety and stress

Enhancement of legal writing skills, including, but not limited to:

- Organization
- Clarity
- Responsiveness to audience and purpose
- Style and tone (objective or persuasive)
- Adherence to format and assignment instructions

Refinement of legal analysis skills, including, but not limited to:

- Understanding of and synthesis of legal issues and rules raised by the assignment
- Application of legal authority and commentary to assigned facts
- Ability to define and isolate issues
- Persuasive and accurate use of the facts
- Ability to deal effectively with adverse authority

HUSL Policies on attendance, lateness and preparation

The program of instruction at the School of Law is based on an active and informed exchange between instructor and student and between student and student. Regular, prepared class attendance helps develop skills essential to the competent practice of law. A student who violates the attendance policy, including the instructor's specification of class expectation described below, may lose his or her right to take the exam in the course, to receive course credit or may receive other penalties described below and in Academic Rule 108. Persistent or frequent lateness or unpreparedness may also be the basis for reduction of the grade awarded in a course. See Academic Rule 108 for further details.

Attendance Policies in this Course

You are required to attend all classes and to participate in class discussions and exercises. Penalties for missed classes are as follows:

- 1st missed class: No consequences
- 2nd missed class: One assignment will be lowered by one “pass level”
- 3 or more missed classes: See note below

Because of the “front-loaded” aspect of this class, if you miss more than two classes, I will be forced to submit your name to the Dean’s office, with a recommendation that you be withdrawn from the course.

For the purposes of this rule, each class missed is considered one class, regardless of the length of the class. There are no excused absences.

Punctuality/Preparation Policies in this Course

Please be respectful to me and your fellow classmates by being on time to each class meeting.

Policy on Laptop Use in Class:

Use of a laptop and a wireless connection will be required in every class as we will use technology throughout the duration of the course. However, I will not tolerate the use of the laptop to surf the web or do any other activities not related to our class discussion. If I become of your inappropriate laptop use, I will be forced to submit your name to the Dean’s office, with a recommendation that you be withdrawn from the course.

Other Classroom Policies:

We will use our TWEN site almost exclusively for the distribution of class materials and other communications. I also frequently use the Discussion and Live Discussion tools on the site. You are charged with the responsibility of reading the contents of every posting on TWEN.

Semester Point Totals

- 1) Week 2 Baseline (Out of Class) Exercise
graded on a High Pass/Pass/No Pass basis
- 2) Weeks 3, 4, 5 In-Class Exercises
graded on a High Pass/Pass/No Pass basis
- 3) Two In-Class MPT Simulated Exams
graded on a High Pass/Pass/No Pass basis
- 4) One (Out of Class) Answer Critique
graded on a High Pass/Pass/No Pass basis
- 5) Class Participation and Preparedness
graded on a High Pass/Pass/No Pass basis

You must receive a Pass (or higher) on 75% of the assignments in order to receive a “Pass” grade. There are a total of 8 “assignments”; therefore, you must score a “Pass” or higher on at least 6 of these to pass the course. Assignments turned in with a reasonable, good faith effort are likely to receive a passing score. Despite individual assignments potentially being awarded a “High Pass” grade, the overall course grades will either be “Pass” or “No Pass”.

Weekly Assignments & Discussions

Weekly assignments are subject to change, although I will always give you plenty of notice to make/change your plans accordingly.

Week One: January 15, 2011

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES and DISCUSSIONS

Welcome and Introduction

Administrative Matters

Survey Results

Introduction to the Bar Exam Overall

READING ASSIGNMENTS TO BE DONE FOR THIS WEEK

http://www.ncbex.org/uploads/user_docrepos/MPT_IB_2011_101110.pdf

http://www.ncbex.org/uploads/user_docrepos/680299_testing.pdf

ASSIGNMENTS DUE THIS WEEK

N/A

Week Two: January 22, 2011

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES and DISCUSSIONS

Review of MPT Statistics

Review of several previous exams

Components of the MPT in more detail

In-Class Exercise: TBD

READING ASSIGNMENTS TO BE DONE FOR THIS WEEK

Review sample task memos

Chapter 7 of "The Bar Exam in a Nutshell" (pdf posted to TWEN site)

ASSIGNMENTS DUE THIS WEEK

Week 2 Baseline (Out of Class) Exercise – details provided in Week 1

Week Three: January 29, 2011

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES and DISCUSSIONS

Review "Blueprint for Success" Checklist

In-Class Exercise: "Quick Looks" – 5 exams – 10 minutes per exam

Other Discussions TBD

READING ASSIGNMENTS TO BE DONE FOR THIS WEEK

N/A

ASSIGNMENTS DUE THIS WEEK

N/A

Week Four: February 5, 2011

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES and DISCUSSIONS

Persuasive Point Headings Discussion

In-Class Exercise: Preparing Effective Point Headings

Other Discussions TBD

READING ASSIGNMENTS TO BE DONE FOR THIS WEEK

N/A

ASSIGNMENTS DUE THIS WEEK

N/A

Week Five: February 12, 2011

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES and DISCUSSIONS

Outlining and preparing your answer

Employing Case Analysis

In-Class Exercise: Outlining an Answer

Other Discussions TBD

READING ASSIGNMENTS TO BE DONE FOR THIS WEEK

N/A

ASSIGNMENTS DUE THIS WEEK

N/A

Week Six: February 19, 2011

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES and DISCUSSIONS
Simulated MPT Exam

READING ASSIGNMENTS TO BE DONE FOR THIS WEEK
N/A

ASSIGNMENTS DUE THIS WEEK
N/A

Week Seven: February 26, 2011

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES and DISCUSSIONS

Course Evaluations

Simulated MPT Exam

READING ASSIGNMENTS TO BE DONE FOR THIS WEEK

N/A

ASSIGNMENT DUE

Critique of your answer written in Week 7 – uploaded to TWEN by March 5, 2011 at 1:15pm