LEGAL WRITING SYLLABUS
TREVOR (SECTION A)
SPRING 2008

COURSE OVERVIEW

The first two pages of this syllabus briefly address the basic course requirements for the spring semester of Legal Writing; the balance of the syllabus details the weekly sequence of readings and classes for the semester. Please consult the Student Manual and Code of Conduct, posted on the course TWEN site in the fall for the whole year, for more detailed course requirements and information, including, inter alia, an overview of the goals and assignments for the course, the attendance policy for the course, the format and submission requirements for written graded assignments, the ethical and conduct requirements for the course, and an explanation of the grading for the course. If you have any questions at any point in the semester, feel free to contact me at mtrevor@hamline.edu or at 651-523-2487 or at my office, 306D. I will post office hours, but feel free to stop by any time.

Weekly Assignments

As in the fall, please complete the required reading assignments before the first class of the week for which they are assigned unless otherwise directed. Throughout the semester, I may assign additional class exercises and ungraded writing assignments. I recommend that you also work through the unassigned exercises in the texts to further develop your skills.

Graded Assignments

The graded assignments this semester are the Client Letter, the Advocacy Exercise, the Appellate Brief, and the Appellate Oral Argument. The materials in the Appellate Brief assignment packet will form the basis for all of these assignments. The packet and the Client Letter assignment instructions will be distributed in your first class meeting of the semester: Monday, Jan. 14. The Client Letter will be due two weeks later at the start of your first class meeting of Week 3 (the week of Jan. 28). The Advocacy Exercise assignment instructions will be distributed during Week 2 and the Exercise will be due at the Alpha tutorial for the Appellate Brief. The Appellate Brief will be due at the Registrar's Office by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 3 (Week 8). (The date, time, and place for picking up the graded Appellate Brief will be announced later.) The graded Appellate Oral Arguments will be scheduled by sign-up during Week 7 and presented during Weeks 11-12.

Class Meetings and Tutorials

As in the fall, each Legal Writing class is scheduled to meet for two hours per week. But, as you did in the fall, please check the syllabus entry for each week carefully because the schedule will vary during many of the weeks. Please note that the syllabus is intended to serve as a guide to the material to be discussed each week in class and I may modify it if necessary. I will
announce modifications of the syllabus as far in advance as possible.

There will be one set of tutorials this semester, the Alpha and Beta tutorials for the Appellate Brief. Tutorial scheduling will again be done through the sign-up sheets on the TWEN site.

RESEARCH LABS

There will be no research labs this semester. One or two optional refresher lectures about online research, conducted by representatives from Westlaw and/or Lexis (depending on availability) may be offered.

TEXTBOOKS

Required textbooks:


*New for Spring Semester

Recommended textbooks:

I have a list of recommended texts. I am happy to share it with you if you are interested in consulting other sources.

TWEN SITE

Please check to see that your TWEN site access is functioning and plan to check regularly for emails from this site. If you registered using an email address that you no longer check regularly, please change your registration to an address you do check regularly.
WEEK 1  Week of January 14, 2008--Two Class Hours

Class Discussion Topics

Letter writing
Motion practice
Appellate Brief assignment

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:


**Please note that this chapter will be posted as a Handout on the TWEN site during the month of January. Note also that the publisher has placed limits on how the chapter may be printed, so you can only print out one page of the chapter at a time (i.e., you will have to hit "print" for each page). Copies of the book containing the chapter will also be placed on reserve in the library.

Writing Assignment:

Instructions for the Client Letter assignment will be distributed in the first class this week. Begin work on this assignment, which will be due at the start of the first class of Week 3.

The Appellate Brief assignment packet will also be distributed in the first class this week. You will need the information in this packet for the Client Letter assignment.

Tutorials:

Optional feedback tutorials for the Research Memorandum will be held this week. Please contact me if you would like to set up an appointment.

Research Assignment:

Begin research on the Appellate Brief assignment.

Notes:

Law school classes and Legal Writing class begin on Monday, January 14, 2008. Check Piperline to confirm the time and room for class.
WEEK 2    Week of January 21, 2008--Two Class Hours

Class Discussion Topics

Letter writing (continued)
Persuasive writing
    Purpose and tone
    Types of persuasive writing
Appellate Brief assignment (continued)

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

Appellate Advocacy, Chapters 1-3, 10, 11 (pp. 179-97 only)

Recommended Reading:

Edwards, Chapters 16, 18 (pp. 278-83 only)

Writing Assignment:

Work on the Client Letter assignment, due at the start of the first class of Week 3
(next week).

Advocacy Exercise (due at the Alpha tutorial) distributed this week in class

Research Assignment:

Continue research on the Appellate Brief assignment.

Notes:

Sign up on the TWEN site this week to choose which client you will represent for the
assignments this semester. Directions will be given in class.

Monday's class this week will be rescheduled due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
WEEK 3  Week of January 28, 2008--Two Class Hours

Class Discussion Topics

- Persuasive writing (continued)
- Appellate Brief assignment (continued)
- Appellate Brief
  - Introduction
  - Argument
  - Format
  - Point Headings

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

- Appellate Advocacy, Chapters 4-5, 6 (pp. 77-97 only), 8, 9 (pp. 155-61 only)

Recommended Reading:

- Edwards, Chapters 17-19, 20 (pp. 307-15)

Writing Assignment:

- The Client Letter assignment is due at the start of the first class this week.

- Work on the Advocacy Exercise assignment, due at your Alpha tutorial.

Research Assignment:

- Continue research on the Appellate Brief assignment.

Notes:

- I will let you know in class when the Client Letter assignment will be returned.

- Tutorial sign-ups will be posted on the TWEN site this week at a date and time TBA.
WEEK 4  Week of February 4, 2008—Two Class Hours + Alpha Tutorials

Class Discussion Topics

Appellate Brief assignment (continued)
Appellate Brief
  Statement of the Issues       Summary of the Argument
  Statement of the Case         Tables
  Statement of Facts           Conclusion

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

  Appellate Advocacy, Chapter 9 (pp. 133-55 only)

Recommended Reading:

  Edwards, Chapters 20 (pp. 316-22 only), 21

Writing Assignment:

  Work on the Advocacy Exercise assignment, due at the Alpha tutorial.

Research Assignment:

  Continue research on the Appellate Brief assignment.

Tutorials:

  Alpha tutorials begin this week. Prepare and bring the following to your Alpha tutorial:

  Advocacy Exercise
  Draft Statement of the Issues
  Draft outline of the Argument section
  Research Status Report
  Questions

Notes:

  Please remember that each tutorial is worth four points, and you must come prepared to the tutorial to receive the points.
WEEK 5     Week of February 11, 2008—No Class Hours; Alpha Tutorials

Class Discussion Topics

No class this week

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

Appellate Advocacy, Chapter 7; Review Chapter 10

Recommended Reading:

Edwards, Chapter 22

Tutorials:

Alpha tutorials continue this week. Prepare and bring the following to your Alpha tutorial:

Advocacy Exercise
Draft of Issues Presented
Draft outline of the Argument section
Research Status Report
Questions

Notes:

Please remember that each tutorial is worth four points, and you must come prepared to the tutorial to receive the points.
WEEK 6    Week of February 18, 2008—First Class Hour Only + Beta Tutorials

Class Discussion Topics

Citation and Writing Skills
Appellate Brief assignment (continued)

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

Appellate Advocacy, Chapters 6 (pp. 98-107 only), 11 (pp. 197-204 only), 12; Appendix A (Citation Form and Punctuation Information)

Tutorials:

Beta tutorials begin this week. Prepare and bring the following to your Beta tutorial:

Draft of Point Headings
Drafts of Statement of the Case and Statement of Facts
Full draft of Argument section
Draft of Table of Authorities
Questions

Notes:

Classes will meet for the first class hour only this week.

Please remember that each tutorial is worth four points, and you must come prepared to the tutorial to receive the points.
WEEK 7    Week of February 25, 2008--No Class Hours; Beta Tutorials

Class Discussion Topics

No class this week

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

No new reading assignment this week.

Tutorials:

Beta tutorials continue this week. Prepare and bring the following to your Beta tutorial:

- Draft of Point Headings
- Drafts of Statement of the Case and Statement of Facts
- Full draft of Argument section
- Draft of Table of Authorities
- Questions

Notes:

Please remember that each tutorial is worth four points, and you must come prepared to the tutorial to receive the points.

Sign up this week for practice and final oral arguments. Instructions will be given in class or on the TWEN site.

The Appellate Brief is due next week.
Week 8  Week of March 3, 2008--Two Class Hours (Possible Change) + Brief Hand-In

Class Discussion Topics

Citation (Bluebook Manual vs. ALWD Manual)
Oral Argument

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

Appellate Advocacy, Chapter 13; Review Appendix A (pp. 251-58 only)

Recommended Reading:

Edwards, Chapter 23

Writing Assignment:

Appellate Brief (four copies in one envelope) due at the Registrar’s Office by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 3, 2007.

Notes:

Exchange briefs with your final oral argument opponent on Monday, March 3 as soon as possible after 11:00 a.m. Please confirm that your opponent has submitted the brief to the Registrar’s Office before exchanging briefs.

Note that you will need a total of six hard copies of your Appellate Brief: four to be handed in at the Registrar's Office, one for your oral argument opponent, and one for your own use at your oral argument.

Once you have turned in your Appellate Brief to the Registrar's Office in compliance with the submission requirements, please also submit the brief to me electronically. I will give instructions for electronic submission in class. Please note that the electronic submission does NOT count for purposes of determining the timeliness or compliance with any other requirements of your brief submission; only the submission to the Registrar's Office counts for compliance with submission requirements.

Please bring your ALWD Manual to the first class of the week. We will be comparing ALWD Citation to Bluebook citation.

Classes this week may be rescheduled to accommodate an oral argument demonstration.
WEEK 9    Week of March 10, 2008—Two Class Hours (Possible Change)

Class Discussion Topics

Oral Argument (continued)

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

Little Book on Oral Argument

Notes:

Mandatory practice oral arguments begin the week following spring break.

Classes this week may be rescheduled to accommodate an oral argument demonstration. I will announce any change as far ahead as I can.

Enjoy your spring break!
WEEK 10  Week of March 24, 2008—No Class Hours; Practice Oral Arguments

Class Discussion Topics

No class this week.

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

No new reading assignment this week.

Notes:

Mandatory practice oral arguments begin this week.
WEEK 11  Week of March 31, 2008--No Class Hours; Practice + Graded Oral Arguments

Class Discussion Topics

No class this week.

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

No new reading assignment this week.

Notes:

Mandatory practice oral arguments continue this week.

Final (graded) oral arguments will begin toward the end of this week.
WEEK 12  Week of April 7, 2008--No Class Hours; Graded Oral Arguments

Class Discussion Topics

No class this week.

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

No new reading assignment this week.

Notes:

Final (graded) oral arguments continue and finish up this week.
WEEK 13  Week of April 14, 2008–First Class Hour Only

Class Discussion Topics

Debriefing on oral arguments
Discussion of exams
Administration of end of semester evaluations

Assignments, Tutorials, and Notes

Required Reading:

No new reading assignment this week.

Notes:

Classes will meet for the first class hour only this week.

I will announce in class when the graded Appellate Briefs will be available.

Honor Round oral arguments will be held on Friday, April 18, 2008. Students selected to compete in Honor Round oral arguments will be notified after the completion of all first-year oral arguments.

Congratulations on completing your first year of law school!