

Honors Seminar V & VI: IDH 3034 (Fall 2016)- Law School in A Nutshell

Class Time/Location: Wednesday 5:00 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. in Room TBA

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Office hours by Appointment

Course Goals:

- To assist students in selecting a career in the legal profession.
- To improve student preparedness for a career in law (e.g. acquiring competencies basic to success as a law student and lawyer, preparing for the challenges of the LSAT and the academic rigors of law school).
- To help students acquire knowledge that will advance their understanding of the U.S. Legal system, the role of international Law, and the difference between civil and common Law. Students will be introduction to Legal Research and Writing, exam preparation skills, and first year classes: Contracts, Torts, and Constitutional Law.
- To provide opportunities for mentorship and guidance by College of Law Faculty, Alumni and Students.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this two-semester course, students will:

- Be able to evaluate and assess their own commitment and aptitude for entry into and success in law school
- Develop their interest and skills in service, leadership, communication, analysis and organization
- Develop essential learning skills and strategies for time management, preparation, writing, research, and test taking needed for success in professional schools and careers
- Be able to apply their knowledge to solve problems that require logical reasoning
- Have acquired habits of thought that will prepare them for careers in law
- Understand the expectations and rigors of achieving the JD degree
- Understand the basic history, structure and impact of the judiciary system and the legal profession
- Have developed skills to work collaboratively and in an interdisciplinary manner
- Have acquired the knowledge and skills needed to prepare for the LSAT (or corollary exam), and how to be well positioned to be a successful applicant to law school

Format:

- Class meets one per week.
 - o Class sessions may be subdivided to accommodate guest speakers, lectures, and, activities.
 - o Each class will begin with an exercise and/or brief quiz on the previous weeks required readings.
 - o Online preparation is critical to success in this course.
- Class will be supplemented by:
 - o Readings to be assigned by course instructor or visiting lecturers.
 - o Meeting with FIU Law faculty outside of the class period to discuss current topics in the law, and specific areas of study.
 - o Videos – posted on Blackboard or available on Netflix.
 - o Core Grammar for Lawyers 2d.
- Online Expectations
 - o Active online participation on blackboard discussion forums.
 - o Review of all weekly course materials, and media posted on blackboard.

Honors College Requirements:

Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity.

1. Honors Citizenship Requirements

Beginning in Fall 2014, Honors College students are required to accumulate at least 20 citizenship points each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate 10 citizenship points. See <http://honors.fiu.edu/academics/policies/citizenship/>.

2. Student Portfolios

The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students' learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what "artifacts" or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student-learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience. See www.honors.fiu.edu/portfolios.

3. Honors College Academic Misconduct Statement

In The Honors College, the term "honor" refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

4. Procedures and Penalties

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Honors College website (<http://honors.fiu.edu/academics/policies/>), and the Academic Misconduct Procedures, available at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

- FIU Honors College Plagiarism Policy – http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html
- FIU Honors College Student Handbook – <http://honors.fiu.edu/handbook0910.html>
- FIU Code of Academic Integrity – <http://www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html>.

5. Religious Observances

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements or scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

6. Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (drc.fiu.edu), if you have not done so already.

GL Learning Outcomes for IDH 3034-5

- **Global Awareness:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems.
- **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of the interrelated global dynamics (social-cultural, political, economic, etc.) that shape aesthetics, values, and authority in diverse cultural contexts.
- **Global Perspectives:** Students will be able to develop a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.
- **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will be able to analyze the multiple global forces that shape their understanding of aesthetics, values, and authority — economic, political, sociological, technological, cultural, etc.
- **Global Engagement:** Students will be able to demonstrate a willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.
- **Course Learning Outcome:** Students will be able to develop solutions to local, global, international, and/or intercultural problems related to

Grading and Evaluation

Quizzes	10%
LSAT Prep	10%
Participation (Including pre-law exercises)	20%
Supreme Court brief and Presentation	10%
Legal Writing and Research Exercise and Core Grammar for	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Attendance

- Because this class meets once per week – one excused absence will be allowed.
- It will not be possible to make up grades for missed presentations, class participation, or for missed quizzes. Two unexcused absences will result in a decrease of one letter grade. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a course grade of 'F.'

Participation (20%)

- This course will require preparation that will mirror the expectations of Professors in Law School. Readings MUST be completed before class, and students must be prepared to get called on in class.
- A seating chart will be developed, and students will be expected to sit in the same seats selected on the first day.
- Pre-law related exercises (Resume, Personal Statement, Letter of Rec. etc.) will count towards your participation grade.

Quizzes (10%)

Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each class on the previous weeks assignments.

LSAT Prep (10%)

Students will be expected to do 2 sample LSATs, and complete other LSAT related activities to help introduce students to Law School Admission Test.

Assignments (60%)

1. Supreme Court Paper and Presentation (10%)
 - a. Each student will be assigned one historic Supreme Court case. Each student will be responsible for presenting the case to the class (including its impact).
 - i. Students will select from a pre-determined list of cases.
 - ii. Cases must use 3-4 sources.

2. Legal Research and Writing Assignment (20%)
 - a. Writing a brief, memo, and legal research assignment.
 - b. Complete Core Grammar for Lawyers
 - Core Grammar for Lawyers: <http://www.coregrammarforlawyers.com>
 - Complete initial assessment by August 31, 2016
 - Use class code: 316-532-7062
 - All sessions to be completed by December 1, 2016.
3. Final Exam (30%)

A law school-like final exam that will cover the entire semester.

Required Books (Recommended to purchase online)

- Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong, *The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court*, 1979. ISBN: 9780743274029
- William Strunk and E.B. White, *The Elements of Style* (4th Edition). ISBN: 9780205309023
- Herbert N. Ramo, *Succeeding in Law School*, 2010. ISBN: 9781594607400
- LSAC, *10 Actual, Official LSAT PrepTests* (11th Edition). ISBN: 9780984636006
- Optional: *Black's Law Dictionary 126* (11TH Edition). ISBN: 9780314275448

Notes:

- 1. Please do not bring laptops to class. Just a notebook and writing instrument.**
- 2. The classroom may change week to week, please see FIU e-mail for room assignment.**

Date	Topic
August 24	Introduction to Law
August 31	The Teaching Environment U.S. History and the Courts I.
September 7	U.S. History and the Courts II.
September 14	Legal Writing
September 21	Legal Research
September 28	Law School Prep Session I.
October 5	Legal Skills and Preperation
October 12	Constitutional Law
October 19	Constitutional Law
October 26	Torts
November 2	Torts
November 9	Contracts
November 16	Contracts
November 23	No Class
November 30	Review for Final Exam
December 7	Final Exam

