

# Course Schedule and Readings - Spring



## **Legal Analysis, Research and Writing A506 A (Cobb)**

### **Autumn 2018 - Spring 2019**

- Section A: Tuesday/Thursday, 10:30 - 11:20, William H. Gates Hall, Room 119.
- Section B: Tuesday/Thursday, 11:30 - 12:20, William H. Gates Hall, Room 119.

Please see below for alterations to the default schedule, and let me know right away if you will have difficulty attending all the classes.

#### **Prof. Tom Cobb**

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Office Location: William H. Gates Hall, Room 426

Office Hours: Starting Week 2, Tuesday and Thursday 3-5 p.m. and by appointment

## **Winter Syllabus, Schedule, and Readings**

Special academic honesty rules for Spring: We are working on a real case that is in progress. It is a violation of the honor code to look at any documents related to the case other than the ones I give you. It is also a violation of the honor code to conduct any internet research related to this problem or the legal questions raised in it. Your research on this problem is restricted to case databases and secondary sources in Westlaw/Lexis and to paper sources in the library, unless I specifically refer you to another source. If you happen to come across news stories or other materials related to this case or issue, it is your duty to ignore them.

We will have frequent research activities in class. Please bring your computer each day and make sure you have access to both Westlaw and LexisNexis.

## **Week 1: Introduction to the MPT**

### **Tuesday, April 2**

No class meeting

### **Thursday, April 4**

Both classes meet from 10:30 to 12:20

Before class: Review MPT instructions and documents previously posted

During class: Timed sample MPT administration

## **Week 2: Introduction to Advocacy and the Motion to Dismiss**

### **Tuesday, April 9**

Before class:

Read *Schwartz* complaint and New York law being challenged.

Read *Synthesis* Ch. 16A (Intro & Ethics) & Ch. 16B (Analyzing Elements); *Synthesis* Ch. 17A (Intro) & Ch. 17B (Civil Litigation).

Review the course syllabus and policies, which have a few updates for Spring Quarter.

During class:

Introduction to the problem (power point)

### **Thursday, April 11**

Before class:

Create initial research plan and bring it to class.

During class:

Discuss bodies of law relevant to problem and figure out what we need to know.

## **Week 3: Framing the Issues and Creating a Theme**

### **Tuesday, April 16**

Before class:

Review *Synthesis* Ch. 16A (Intro). Read *Synthesis* Ch. 16C (Theory of the Case), Ch. 16D (Strengths and Weaknesses), & Ch. 17C (Motion Practice Memo).

During class:

Further discussion of bodies of law relevant to problem.

### **Thursday, April 18**

Before class:

Turn in research summary

Read the sample Introductions from various motions to dismiss (to be posted). Be prepared to discuss your views on the more effective and less effective aspects of these samples.

## **Week 4: Structuring Arguments and Drafting Persuasive Facts**

**Tuesday, April 23**

**Before class:** Turn in updated research summary

**Thursday, April 25**

**Before class:** Turn in draft "Introduction" to your brief. Review Ch. 17C (Motion Practice Memo). Read Ch. 16E (Slanting Prose)

## **Week 5: Preparation for Oral Argument; Creation of Analytical Outline**

**Tuesday, April 30**

No class meeting

**Thursday, May 2**

Both classes meet together from 10:30 to 12:20

**Before class:** Read *Synthesis* Ch. 19 (Oral Argument)

**During Class:** Presentation on Oral Arguments. Watch sample videos. Discuss methods used in videos.

## **Week 6: Oral Arguments**

No regular class meetings this week

Schedule time for oral arguments (times on Thursday, May 9, and Friday, May 10, to be posted)

## **Week 7: Revision and Sentence-Level Writing I (big picture revision)**

**Tuesday, May 14**

Both classes meet together from 10:30 to 12:20

**Thursday, May 16**

No class meeting

## **Week 8: Revision and Sentence-Level Writing II (sentence level, editing)**

**Tuesday, May 21**

No class meeting

**Thursday, May 23**

Both classes meet together from 10:30 to 12:20

**Before class:** Turn in a good-faith draft of your brief. Review *Synthesis* Appendix II (style, writing, and grammar). Perhaps review sections of *Core Grammar for Lawyers*.

## **Week 9: Peer Review**

**Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day**

**Tuesday, May 28**

Both classes meet from 10:30 to 12:20

Before class: Review *Synthesis* Appendix II (style, writing, and grammar). Perhaps review sections of *Core Grammar for Lawyers*.

*Come to class with two paper copies of your motion.*

**Note:** I plan to be at the biennial conference of the Association of Legal Writing Directors from the afternoon of May 28 to Saturday, June 1. If you have questions that you want to discuss with me in person, you should do that during the *previous* week, after you've completed your first "good faith" draft. I will be available to answer questions via email during this week, but not in person. Please plan ahead!

**Thursday, May 30**

No class meeting

## **Week 10: Conclusion of the Course**

**Monday, June 3 – Final Assignment Due.** Submit to Canvas by 10:00am, with a paper copy to Academic Services by 4:00pm.

**Tuesday, June 4 – Final Class.**

We'll do something fun. And you'll have class time to complete your course evaluations. And you're almost done with your 1L year. Congratulations!