



## ADVANCED LEGAL-WRITING COURSES (2026-2027)

### FALLSESSION 2026

**Law and Literature** (*Professor Gabrielle Stafford*). This one-credit, week-long course explores the intersection between law and literature and will provide an opportunity to think about the law by reading engaging works of fiction and non-fiction, viewing important films, and examining the law from a humanistic and philosophical perspective. (Taught as Special Topics LAWS 6708.)

### FALL 2026

**Advanced Appellate Advocacy** (*Professor Megan Hall*). Take your advocacy skills to the next level in this fast-paced, seven-week course designed to prepare students for moot court, judicial clerkships, and practice. Students will apply their foundational advocacy skills in the appellate context, navigating standards of review, circuit splits, and arguments for developing or reshaping the law. We will also consider how to adapt the CREAC paradigm for more complex arguments, such as advocating for a new rule rather than simply applying existing law. Students will draft a full appellate brief and participate in oral arguments, with detailed, individualized feedback on both writing and oral advocacy throughout. Offered in a condensed format at the start of the fall semester, the course is intentionally timed so students can complete it before moot court competitions begin. However, it is valuable for any student looking to further develop their writing and advocacy skills. (And please don't let the course title deter you; the only prerequisite is Legal Writing, and the "Advanced" label simply reflects the progression from the LW II persuasive semester.)

**Legislative and Policy Drafting** (*Professors Gabrielle Stafford and Michael Whitlow*). Exposes students to the process of drafting and amending enacted legal texts such as statutes, regulations, and policies of both governmental and non-governmental entities. Students will critically examine lawyers' roles as counselors, advocates, and experts in different legislative and policy-drafting contexts.

**Transactional Drafting** (*Instructor TBD*). This course will teach you the principles of contemporary commercial drafting and introduce you to documents typically used in a variety of transactions. The skills you will gain will be applicable to any transactional practice and will even be useful to litigators. On finishing the course, you will know: the business purpose of each of the contract concepts; how to translate the business deal into contract concepts; how to draft each of a contract's parts; how to draft with clarity and without ambiguity; how to add value to a deal; how to work through the drafting process; and how to review and comment on a contract.

*(Spring Offerings on Reverse Side)*

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### SPRING 2027

**Advanced Legal Writing** (*Professor Samantha Funk*). This two-credit course builds on the fundamental legal analysis and writing skills covered during the first year of law school and is appropriate for 2Ls or 3Ls. In this course, we will focus on the writing process from brainstorming to editing and explore how to approach various legal writing projects. In addition to writing clearly and concisely, the course will emphasize the importance of adapting writing style and format to the context and needs of the reader. Every assignment will have a realistic purpose and audience, and you will receive feedback on everything you write. The course will include graded assignments and multiple pass/fail exercises. Many classes will include active writing exercises.

**Advanced Transactional Drafting** (*Professor Amy Bauer*). The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to further develop skills gained in Transactional Drafting, LAWS 7051. Students will put their skills to use in simulations and business contexts across various areas of practice. Students will be asked to draft industry-specific contract provisions, revise existing contracts, counsel and negotiate on behalf of clients, and work through ethical dilemmas encountered by transactional attorneys. Finally, students will expand their knowledge of transactional documents and transactional lawyering.

**Judicial Opinion Writing** (*Professor Derek Kiernan-Johnson*). This two-credit course begins by placing the contemporary American judicial opinion in historical and comparative context. We then analyze courts' institutional constraints and challenges before turning to judges' individual stylistic choices. Through short writing assignments across the semester, students explore and share these ideas. A final capstone project invites them to commit to an opinion-writing approach of their own.

**Oral and Written Communication with Nonlegal Audiences** (*Professor Zachary Schmook*). Lawyers regularly translate complex legal rules for people who are not lawyers. While much of legal education focuses on writing for courts, lawyers also communicate with clients, corporate decisionmakers, regulators, legislators, journalists, and the public. This course develops students' ability to present accurate legal analysis in clear, accessible language. Students receive individualized feedback on their oral and written communication in simulations, short written assignments, and practical exercises.

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