

2019 – 2020 ADVANCED LEGAL WRITING COURSES

FALL 2019

Advanced Appellate Advocacy (Professor Teresa Bruce, and if demand exists, possibly a second section). This two-credit course builds on the writing and advocacy skills taught in the first year, applying them in the appellate context and focusing on choosing and developing arguments, writing the brief, and delivering the oral argument. One section of the course (Bruce) meets twice a week for seven weeks, enabling students who are competing in moot court to practice their argumentation and oral advocacy skills before the competition occurs. If we add a second section, it will meet once a week for the full semester. Either section is equally appropriate for improving the skills of students who are not competing in moot court.

Transactional Drafting (Professor Bauer). This two-credit course focuses on the principles of contemporary commercial drafting and introduces students to documents typically used in a variety of transactions. The skills students will gain will be applicable to any transactional practice and will even be useful to litigators. On finishing the course, students will be able to do the following: identify the business purpose of each of the contract concepts, translate a business deal into contract concepts, draft each of a contract's parts, draft with clarity and without ambiguity, add value to a deal, work through the drafting process, and review and comment on a contract in a professional manner.

SPRING 2020

Advanced Legal Writing: Persuasion (Professor Todd Stafford). What makes a message persuasive? This two-credit course will explore the art of persuasion, focusing on a range of techniques and strategies. Topics will include the role of the audience, the tension between freedom and form; the role of imagination; finding an authentic and professional voice; the rhetoric of briefs; language and tone; metaphor; the reactions of readers; narrative and other framing devices; and the ethics of advocacy. It functions more like a seminar, with students participating actively in discussions and exercises. The course work consists not only of practicing techniques, but also of reflecting on them, both as applied in one's own writing and in the writing of others.

Judicial Opinion Writing (Professor Derek Kiernan-Johnson). This two-credit course begins by placing the contemporary American judicial opinion in historical and comparative context. Students then analyze institutional and individual writing choices opinion-authors make and the ethical dilemmas they confront. Through short assignments across the semester, students explore various approaches to writing opinions, and then, in a final project, articulate and express their own.

Advanced Transactional Drafting (Professor Amy Bauer). This two-credit course is designed for students who have taken Transactional Drafting (LAWS 7051) and have an understanding of the following: the business purpose of each contract concept, how to translate the business deal into contract concepts, how to draft each of a contract's parts 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. Students in Advanced Transactional Drafting will be challenged to further develop those skills and put them to use in variety of 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 a hypothetical client, and work through ethical dilemmas encountered by transactional attorneys.

Asylum and Refugee Law: Simulation (co-taught by Professor Megan Hall and Adjunct Professor Lisa Green). In this three-credit course, students will learn about forms of humanitarian relief available to people who fear persecution or torture in their home countries, and at the same time will practice critical professional skills by working on a simulated asylum case. As they make their way through the laws of asylum, withholding of removal, and the Convention against Torture ("CAT"), students will conduct client interviews and draft documents including an e-mail memorandum, a personal statement, a client letter, and a trial brief. Assignments will track the substantive material covered in doctrinal class sessions, reinforcing students' knowledge of asylum law while giving them opportunities to hone their lawyering skills. Students will receive detailed individual feedback on every assignment. Instead of a final examination, assessments will be based on skills assignments and class participation.

Research and Writing in the Regulatory Context (Professors Gabrielle Stafford and Susan Nevelow Mart). This three-credit course will develop the research, writing, and analytical skills necessary to operate within highly-regulated fields. Weekly in-class research and writing assignments will expose students to the kinds of research (both regulatory and legislative) and the formal and informal writing produced by practitioners in these fields. Students will likely focus on state and federal environmental regulation and food law regulation, but will examine other areas as well.