

Lawyering Skills and Strategies I
Course 5314, Sections 12474 & 17632
Fall 2026 | Professor Christina Crozier

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Class times:

Section B5 Tuesday 9:00 – 10:30, Thursday 10:30-12:00

Section C1 Tuesday 2:30-4:00, Thursday 2:30-4:00

Office hours: Tuesday 12:00 to 1:00 and Thursday 4:00 to 5:00 in office; and by appointment

Course Objectives. In this class, we will develop and improve your legal writing skills. These skills will be critical to your success during law school, on the bar exam, and in your legal practice.

This semester, you will learn how to:

- Understand the sources, hierarchy, and precedential value of laws.
- Identify legal rules in case law, dissect rules into their basic components, and synthesize legal rules using multiple sources.
- Identify issues that apply to a client's case.
- Execute online legal research and select appropriate authority to address issues in the client's case.
- Apply case precedent and enacted law to the client's case.
- Translate legal research and analysis into objective writing that is organized effectively, conveys relevant content clearly, and omits extraneous matters.
- Understand and draft citations.
- Improve grammar and punctuation.
- Conduct yourself professionally both in person and in writing.

Required Texts.

- Legal Writing, by Richard K Neumann Jr., Sheila Simon, Suzianne D. Painter-Thorne (Fifth Edition, Aspen Publishing, printed or ebook)
- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (22d Edition, printed copy)
- Texas Rules of Form: The Greenbook (15th Edition, printed copy)

Technology. We will be writing and researching regularly in class. Bring your laptop, Westlaw password, and Lexis password to every class. I will post assignments, PowerPoints, exercises, and home reading on Canvas.

Assessments. Your grade will be determined based on your performance a series of in-class assessments and writing assignments.

Deadlines. In practice, failure to meet strict deadlines may result in severe consequences for your client and your own reputation. In preparation for practice, you must responsibly manage the deadlines in this syllabus. Assignments turned in late without an extension will result in a grade reduction. Be advised: computer problems and routine illnesses do not constitute true emergencies.

Professionalism. This class will meet in person. Before each class, complete the assignments and readings listed in the syllabus. Be prepared to discuss the lecture material that I assign for each class. I will call on you at random.

Arrive at class on time. During class, do not leave the room unless you must attend to urgent matters. I take attendance at the beginning of each class. You will be subject to dismissal if you miss more than 80% of classes. If you are facing issues that affect your attendance, please let me know as soon as possible.

Mutual Respect. I want to address each of you with respect. Please reach out to me at any time if you have concerns about how I address you, including the pronunciation of your name. You may call me “Professor Crozier.”

Honor Code. The UHLC Honor Code will apply to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and complying with the Honor Code. Please ask me if you have any questions about how the Honor Code’s provisions apply to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you to follow the Honor Code.

Among other things, this means that you may NOT work together on any assignments for this class unless otherwise instructed by me. You may not plagiarize another’s work. And you may not share your own work with another student.

Generative AI. This course teaches you to write and think about legal issues, and it is critical that you learn to do so without the aid of generative AI (such as ChatGPT, Protégé, and CoCounsel). After all, you will not have access to AI on the Bar exam. Additionally, at this time, generative AI continues to hallucinate when presented with complex research and writing tasks. It fabricates cases, citations, facts, and holdings. In legal practice, you may be subject to sanctions or attorney discipline if you include such hallucinations in your writing.

Thus, I urge you to complete your assignments without generating text from AI chatbots. However, if you choose to use generative AI on any part of your take-home assignments, you do so at your own risk. You must thoroughly review, edit, and cite check any text that it produces. If you misrepresent a case’s facts, holdings, or existence in an assignment, your grade on that assignment will be significantly reduced, and you will likely fall at the bottom of the curve in this course.

Academic Adjustments and Auxiliary Aids. The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic

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accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

The Center for Student Advocacy and Community (CSAC) is where you can go if you need help but don't know where to start. CSAC is a "home away from home" and serves as a resource hub to help you get the resources needed to support academic and personal success. Through our Cougar Cupboard, all students can get up to 30 lbs of FREE groceries a week. Additionally, we provide 1:1 appointments to get you connected to on- and off-campus resources related to essential needs, safety and advocacy, and more. The Cougar Closet is a registered student organization advised by our office and offers free clothes to students so that all Coogs can feel good in their fit. We also host a series of cultural and community-based events that fosters social connection and helps the cougar community come closer together. Visit the CSAC homepage or follow us on Instagram: @uh_CSAC and @uhcupbrd. YOU belong here.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources. The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct. Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

Recording of Class. Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or

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think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

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