

Legal Analysis and Writing
LAW 6369-15714
Spring 2026
Prof. Giasson
Office – Adjunct Office
rcgiasso@Central.UH.EDU

Course Objective:

This course will focus on developing the skills necessary to succeed on each of the three sections of the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). The course will provide instruction, as well as opportunities to practice and hone the skills taught, so that students will be adequately prepared to perform each task required on both days of the Exam.

Goals:

- To provide an overview of the UBE
- To teach systematic problem-solving skills to enable students to succeed on the MBE
- To teach essay writing skills to enable students to write high scoring essays, as well as writing for the MPT
- To provide students with opportunities to self-reflect and garner a better understanding of the tools and skills necessary to successfully prepare for the UBE

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will execute essays and MPTs in an organized manner with clear rule statements and robust application sections
- Students will approach multiple choice questions with our three-step process and correctly identify the answer
- Students will complete simulated bar exams under timed conditions

Class sessions:

Class Times, Mode of Instruction:

- Face-to-Face
- Mondays and Wednesdays 7:30-9pm

Students will each be required to attend mandatory one-on-one advising sessions 3 times during the semester (the one-on-one advising session times will be set on an individual basis)

Reading Material:

Required:

BarBri Binder –A digital copy is available on the class webpage.

Adaptibar (adaptibar.com) – We will discuss enrollment in class after the semester begins.

There is an online classroom component called Matrix. You will use Matrix to submit most assignments. You will receive an email with login information to access the Matrix page. If you do not receive the email by the first day of class, please let me know ASAP. You can access the course site at <https://barbri.matrixlms.com/>

We will also use Canvas. Additional content will be added to the website throughout the semester, as well. While I will notify you when additional material is added, please plan to check the class website on a regular basis.

Recommended (for preparation for the MBE section), but not required:

- Stephen Emmanuel, *Strategies & Tactics for the MBE* (5th ed. 2015)

Office hours:

If you have any questions about the course, please ask me! Questions are welcome and encouraged. Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. To access this email, [login](#) to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, or would like to discuss preparing for the bar exam, you may reach out to me. Please make an appointment if you have questions about the course, any assignments, and bar preparation and licensing. During our appointment, we can review questions together, discuss study strategies, discuss the bar preparation process, and explore any questions, thoughts, or concerns you have about the course.

You may also reach out to Professor Davis with any questions, comments, or concerns about this course or the bar exam in general. She can be reached at mlwilso3@central.uh.edu or 713.743.3226 (work).

Attendance Requirement:

80 percent attendance in class is required. (This means each student has a five-absence limit.) I will take roll at the beginning of class. To be counted present, you must be in attendance *for the entire, and not part*, of the class session. If/when class is occurring on Zoom, that means that you will need to be logged in throughout the class session **with the camera on**. Those individuals not satisfying the attendance requirement will be reported to UH Law Center administrative officials and may be dropped from, or fail, the course.

I am only able to assist you when I know your needs. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any difficulties this semester.

Excused Absence Policy:

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) and [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close

relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to military service, religious holy days, pregnancy and related conditions, and disability.

Grading:

This class is pass/fail.

To recognize the effort you put into this class from week to week, your grade will be spread across the semester. Your grade will be taken, in part, from completion of assignments, individual conferences, a class presentation, essays, MPTs, and MBEs you will begin in class and rewrite open note outside of class for a grade. The goal of these assignments is to give you an opportunity to engage with the material and strategies. The grading in this course is not anonymous.

Part of your grade will come from rewriting your initial response, if requested.

Please note: To pass this class you are required to complete 100% of all assignments (including those assigned for completion out-of-class). The failure to timely complete 100%, including any requested re-writes, will result in a failing grade for the class.

Student Participation:

You are expected to discuss the assigned material in depth, so please make a commitment to be prepared. Your advanced preparation gives you the best opportunity to correctly synthesize and participate in our class discussion. Be prepared to actively engage – including reading all assigned passages and completing any and all out of class assignments.

While the class is pass/fail, students with poor class participation may have their final grade dropped from passing to failing. The decision to drop a grade for participation is at my discretion and is non-negotiable. A drop in grade due to failure to participate in class can result from a combination of unpreparedness, not paying attention in class, and absences (even if you are within the five-absence limit). Note that volunteering every class does not constitute a substantial contribution—quality, not quantity matters.

If class occurs online for any reason, your camera should be on during the entire session. You are welcome to use a virtual background, provided it is school appropriate. If this is a problem, please reach out to me individually.

Student Responsibilities When Absent:

If a student is absent from class, the student has the obligation to reach out to the instructor, obtain all missed content, and submit all missed assignments. To assist in this effort, class assignments and presentations are posted to the BarBri Matrix or Canvas after each class. *The missed material must be completed and submitted to the instructor prior to the next class meeting.* Failure of the instructor to post the assignments does not relieve the student of the duty to reach out and ask for the missed assignments in a timely manner. For example, if a student misses a Tuesday 6pm class (of a T/Th 6-7:30pm class section), the student must complete all assignments from that class meeting before class begins on Thursday at 6pm. Any assignment not timely completed may result in the student failing the class or the student may have to complete additional assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Honor Code:

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this class. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please ask me if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to my course.

Failure to comply – in any respect – with the UHLC Honor Code will result in referral to the UHLC Honor Court, and may result in you failing this class and, potentially, other sanctions as determined by the UHLC Honor Court.

Of note, unless otherwise specifically instructed, all assignments are to be completed individually and you may not consult the internet, peers, or other resources not specifically included in the assignment instructions. Your work product must be exclusively your own, with help from no other person or technological system; not artificial intelligence systems may be a part of your process to generate assessment work product. It is an honor Code violation to review the graded assignments distributed to, or written by, any of my students from prior years.

Students may be asked to sign an honor code statement as part of their submission of any graded work including but not limited to projects, quizzes, and exams: *"I understand and agree to abide by the provisions in the (select: **University of Houston Undergraduate Academic Honesty Policy**, **University of Houston Graduate Academic Honesty Policy**). I understand that academic honesty is taken very seriously and, in the cases of violations, penalties may include suspension or expulsion from the University of Houston."*

Computer and Phone Use/Recording of Class:

The use of personal computers in the classroom is permitted solely for the purpose of completing class assignments (i.e. MPT, essays). Specifically excluded from in-class computer usage is anything beyond these activities, e.g., "surfing the web" and messaging. Nonparticipation and non-responsiveness in the classroom discussion attributable to diversionary uses of your personal computer or phone

constitutes an absence from the class. The use of other electronics, including recording devices, is prohibited during class time. Please be sure that all noise-making devices, including cell phones, are in silent mode or powered off. Phones should be put away during class.

Your camera should be on during all class sessions that (may) occur virtually. You are welcome to use a virtual background, provided it is school appropriate. If this is a problem, please reach out to me individually.

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 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.

Instructor Evaluations:

Please feel free to provide me with feedback and comments during the course of the semester as they will help me improve this program. I will carefully consider all of the comments and suggestions that I receive. Professor Davis would also love any feedback you have about the class, professor, or suggestions for how we may better support our students during the bar exam. (mlwilso3@central.uh.edu)

Inclusion and Wellness:

This is an inclusive learning space.

At UHLC, we are committed to ensuring inclusive online and classroom learning spaces, where you'll be treated with respect and dignity, and where everyone is provided the equitable opportunity to participate, to contribute, and to succeed.

In this course, all students are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national origin, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, marital status, and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Our class is richer for this diversity.

Inclusive learning spaces facilitate the innovation and creative thought that enhance student success. This success arises from the participation, support, and understand of you and your colleagues. I encourage you to speak up and share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we're all expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others.

If you feel like your class performance is impacted in any way by your experiences inside or outside of class, please reach out to me. I want to be a resource for you. If you feel more comfortable speaking with someone besides me, Student Services is an excellent resource: 713.743.2182. Finally, I encourage you to bring any issues negatively impacting UHLC's openness to diversity and inclusion to the Law Center's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The D&I Committee's charge includes "[b]uilding on the Law Center's strengths as a diverse and inclusive environment." You can contact the committee directly at UHLCD&I@uh.edu .

Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Prohibited Use of Artificial Intelligence:

The software technology known as artificial intelligence has recently expanded its capability to generate text and other work product (AI Generated Work Product). Examples of the technology include what are known as "generative" large language models (LLMs), and a specific implementation that is well known to the general public is ChatGPT. These systems can generate text and other work product in response to prompts and/or input of other text/documents/code/images. The output, the AI Generated Work Product, appears to have human-mimicking "intelligence" and is thus potentially useable as a substitute for material one might generate themselves. AI Generated Work Product can include computer code or programs as well as human language content and materials.

Your continuing enrollment in this course obligates you to not knowingly prompt, generate, or use any AI Generated Work Product in relation to any activity or assessment in this course. This applies to AI Generated Work Product from yourself or others. This obligation includes that your assessment materials in the course be without any contribution from AI Generated Work Product. This obligation specifically extends to not plagiarize any writing required of you for assessment in this course. AI Generated Work Product will be treated as from another/others in applying the plagiarism policy to this course. The term "assessment" means any material generated for this course that is submitted to the instructor or presented in a class session, regardless whether it is graded content or not. Assessments include midterms, interim assignments, and final exams. AI Generated Work Product may not be used in the development or drafting of any assessments created by you in a non-proctored environment, such as a "take-home" final examination.

Accessibility and Accommodations:

The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and

require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact [the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#) (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES).

UHLC is committed to ensuring that all students enjoy equal access and full participation. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability (including any chronic or temporary medical or mental health condition), please feel free to reach out to me so that we may discuss options. If you require any support services, you may contact Ms. Samantha Ary, Academic Records Coordinator. Ms. Ary can be reached at sary@central.uh.edu or 713-743-7466. Requests for accommodation that involve graded assignments must be directed to Ms. Ary and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and process the request.

If you observe religious or cultural holidays that will coincide with class sessions or conferences, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we may make arrangements.

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 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.

Women and Gender Resource Center:

The mission of the WGRC is to advance the University of Houston and promote the success of all students, faculty, and staff through educating, empowering, and supporting the UH community. The WGRC suite is open to you. Stop by the office for a study space, to take a break, grab a snack, or check out one of the WGRC programs or resources. Stop by Student Center South room B12 (Basement floor near Starbucks and down the hall from Creation Station) from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

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.

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program ("TLAP") also supports law students who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health problems. You can reach TLAP at any time at 1-800-343-8527. TLAP's website includes a page with links to sources about mental health that are of interest to law students: <https://www.tlaphelps.org/law-students>.

Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policies:

UHLC and the University are committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment in which students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, a confidential reporting process is available to you. For more information, please refer to the University System's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08.

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/>.

Security Escorts and Cougar Ride:

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. Our Security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety please call 713-743-3333. Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called Cougar Ride that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/cougar-ride/>.

Resources for Online Learning:

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our **Power-On** website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, and Canvas; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

UH Email:

Please check and use your Cougarnet email for communications related to this course. To access this email, **login** to your Microsoft 365 account with your Cougarnet credentials.

Syllabus Changes:

The instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email and the class website.

Proposed Course Outline:

Attached is a proposed course schedule for the class. We may release an updated and complete course schedule at the beginning of the semester. We may, of course, modify it as the class progresses, to achieve course objectives.

We may, at times, email additional materials.

The instructor may, of course, modify it as the semester progresses, to achieve course objectives.

Proposed Course Outline

No preparation is required for the first class.

Each class, please bring your computer, something to take notes on/with, your textbook, and your Barbri Book.

Most assignments will be emailed, or they will be found on the Barbri Matrix and Adaptibar. They will also be posted on the class webpage.

Note all assignments (essays, MPTs, Adaptibar, etc.) are due at 11:59pm. Adaptibar is always due on Sunday evenings. Pay close attention to deadlines.

Please note this calendar is subject to change.

- Class 1:
 - Overview of the UBE
 - Get to know you
- Class 2:
 - Student will complete the online assessment
 - HW: Watch the Barbri Matrix Torts videos and complete 1) the associated tasks (in the video series), and 2) the Initial Learning Quiz
- Class 3:
 - Introduction to the MBE and key skills
 - HW: Continue the assignment
- Class 4:
 - Introduction to the UBE Essay
 - HW: Continue the assignment
- Class 5:
 - Grading UBE essays, class critique of essay
 - HW:
 - Complete essay 1 Upload your response to the Canvas page. Limit yourself to 35 min.
- Class 6:
 - Practice Torts MBE

- Go over Essay 1
 - HW:
 - Complete essay 2. Upload your response to the Canvas page. Limit yourself to 30 min.
- Class 7:
 - Review essay 2
 - Go over MBE questions
 - HW:
 - Complete essay 3. Upload your response to the Canvas page Limit yourself to 30 min.
 - Complete Adaptibar assignment 1
- Class 8:
 - Review essay 3
 - Peer review
 - HW:
 - Complete Adaptibar assignment 1
- Class 9:
 - Introduction to the MPT and MPT Skills
 - MPT grading exercise
 - HW:
 - Complete MPT and upload your response to the Canvas page
 - It should take no longer than 100 min (or 1hr 40 min)
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 2
 - Sign up for conferences!
- Class 10:
 - Review MPT assignment
 - Outline “wildcard” MPT
 - HW:
 - Complete MPT and Upload your response to the Canvas page
 - It should take no longer than 100 min (or 1hr 40 min)
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 2
- **CONFERENCES THIS WEEK**
- Class 11:
 - Guest speaker – pre-recorded
 - Discussion
 - HW:
 - Watch the Barbri Matrix Contracts videos and complete 1) the associated activities in the videos, and 2) the Initial Learning Quiz
 - Complete Adaptibar assignment 3

- Class 12:
 - Go over MPT 2
 - HW:
 - Watch the Barbri Matrix Contracts videos and complete 1) associated activities in the videos, and 2) the Initial Learning Quiz
 - Complete Adaptibar assignment 3
- Class 13:
 - Contracts MBE Practice
 - HW:
 - Complete essay 1 Upload your response to the Canvas page. Limit yourself to 35 min.
 - Complete Adaptibar assignment 4
- Class 14:
 - Review essay 1
 - Go over MBE questions
 - HW:
 - Complete essays 2. Upload your response to the Canvas page Do not exceed 30 minutes.
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 4
- Class 15:
 - Ks and Torts MBE review
 - Go over Ks EE 2
 - HW:
 - Complete essay 3 prior to next class. Upload your response to the Canvas page Do not exceed 30 minutes.
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 5
- Class 16:
 - Go over Ks Essay 3
 - Continue Ks MBE
 - HW:
 - Complete Ks EE 4. Upload your response to the Canvas page Do not exceed 30 minutes.
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 5
- Class 17:
 - Review Ks EE 4
 - Continue Ks MBE
 - HW:
 - Complete MPT 3. Upload your response to the Canvas page Do not exceed 90 minutes.

- Also, Watch all Evidence videos on Barbri Matrix and complete the associated activities AND the Evidence Initial Learning Questions
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 6
- Class 18:
 - Review MPT 3
 - Outline MPT
 - HW:
 - Complete MPT 4. Upload your response to the Canvas page Do not exceed 90 minutes.
 - Watch all Evidence videos on Barbri Matrix and complete the associated activities AND the Evidence Initial Learning Questions
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 6
- Class 19:
 - Review MPT 4
 - HW:
 - Complete all Evidence videos on Barbri Matrix and complete the associated activities AND the Evidence Initial Learning Questions
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 7
- Class 20:
 - Evidence MBE questions practice
 - HW:
 - Complete Evidence EE 1 Upload your response to the Canvas page. Do not exceed 30 minutes.
 - Adaptibar Assignment 7
- **CONFERENCES THIS WEEK**
- Class 21:
 - Review Evidence EE 1
 - Evidence MBE practice
 - HW:
 - Complete Evidence EE 2 Upload your response to the Canvas page. Do not exceed 30 minutes.
 - Adaptibar Assignment 8
- Class 22:
 - Review Evidence EE 2
 - Practice Evidence MBE
 - HW:

- Complete Evidence EE 3 Upload your response to the Canvas page. Do not exceed 30 minutes.
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 8
- Class 23:
 - Review Evidence EE 3
 - Mixed MBE practice
 - HW:
 - Complete MPT 5 Upload your response to the Canvas page. Do not exceed 90 minutes.
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 9
- Class 24:
 - Mixed MBE practice
 - Review MPT 5
 - HW:
 - Complete MPT 6 Upload your response to the Canvas page. Do not exceed 90 minutes.
 - Complete Adaptibar Assignment 9
- Class 25:
 - Review MPT 6
 - MBE Review
 - Real talk: Bar Exam
- Class 26:
 - Adaptibar Review Session
- **FINAL CONFERENCES THIS WEEK**