

FLORIDA BAR TOPICS

LAW 6930

2 CREDIT HOURS

SPRING, 2024

CLASS LOCATION: HOLLAND HALL 355C

TUESDAY 6-8 P.M.

PROFESSORS: *Sabrina Lopez*

Email: lopez@law.ufl.edu

Office Phone: 352.273.0729

Office Location: Holland 349

Stacy Biggart

Email: stacybiggart@ufl.edu

Phone: 850.459.2226

Office Location: Holland 312-N

Heather Kolinsky

Email: kolinsky@law.ufl.edu

Phone: 407.701.4552

Office Location: Holland 373

OFFICE HOURS:

Dean Lopez - Wednesdays 1-3, and by appointment.

Stacy Biggart – TBD

Heather Kolinsky – TBD

Please keep in touch with us! We try to respond to emails quickly. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding the course or a specific assignment.

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://elearning.ufl.edu/> You are responsible for reviewing the page for course updates. We will use the “Announcements” section of Canvas as our main source of communication with students. Check it frequently.

REQUIRED TEXT: The required textbook was purchased for all students. You need to pick up a copy PRIOR TO CLASS in Faculty Support. Leida Mercado, our administrative assistant, will have one read for you. There is not an online version (but you aren’t paying for it so Dean Lopez doesn’t want to hear any whining).

Supplemental Materials: This course will include supplemental materials and videos accessible through Canvas.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND GOALS:

The primary objective and goal of this course is to engage in a substantive review of legal topics routinely tested on the Florida bar exam and practice techniques and strategies for successfully responding to essay questions and multiple-choice questions. Additionally, upon completion of the course you should be able to:

Comprehend the fundamentals of the Florida law tested on the Florida bar exam.

Use strategies and techniques to master multiple-choice questions.

Spot issues in legal fact patterns through critical and active reading.

Effectively plan, outline, and execute an essay response.

State accurate rule statements regarding Florida law.

Apply relevant Florida law to a fact pattern and provide a concise and thorough legal analysis.

It is anticipated that you will spend approximately 2 hours out of class reading and/or drafting an assignment for every 1 hour in class.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals OR via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance in class is required by both the ABA and the Law School. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. You are permitted to miss one class period without penalty. **Missing more than one class period may result in a reduction of your final grade. Missing more than three classes will result in a failing grade in the course.**

Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade penalty.

The law school's policy on attendance and religious holidays can be found [here](#).

ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

Class Participation

Participation grades are based on class attendance, preparation, and active participation in class activities.

Late Policy

Late assignments will result in your grade being lowered by one grade increment per day. An assignment will not be accepted if it is more than three days late.

Professionalism

I expect professionalism at all times.

Plagiarism and Collaboration

All work in this class must be your own. In this class, you may not review the work of a fellow student or allow another student to review your work, unless expressly authorized by me. Additionally, you are prohibited from using any type of Artificial Intelligence for any assignment, quiz or exam unless EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED by your professors.

Plagiarism is a very serious offense. There are detailed policies regarding what constitutes plagiarism in your student handbook. Ignorance of the policies is not a defense to a charge of plagiarism.

RECORDING POLICY:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including

but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor and Student Conduct Code.

COMPUTER POLICY:

We will be using computers in class frequently, so do plan to have it available each class.

UF POLICIES:

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

GETTING HELP:

To reach the law school's mental health counselor, Ritzy Ettinger, email rettinger@ufl.edu or call 352.273.0620.

Additional resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

GRADING/COURSE POLICIES:

10% Successful completion of class exercises, participation and attendance.

40% Quizzes

50% Final Exam

All quizzes and the final exam will replicate the bar exam and be closed book and in person. You can thank us later.

The law school policy on exam delays and accommodations can be found [here](#).

GRADING SCALE:

Grades are recorded permanently by the Office of the University Registrar. The grade point average (GPA) is determined by computing the ratio of grade points of semester hours of work attempted in courses in which letter grades are assigned. Students receive grade points according to the following scale:

Grade	Points
A	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.0
B-	2.67

C +	2.33
C	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.0
D-	0.67
E (Failure)	0.0

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Assignments and Course Schedule (subject to change)

January 14 *Introduction to Course/Essay Writing/Multiple Choice*

Read: Reading Materials available in Canvas
Textbook Pages i-v
Visit our class Canvas page prior to first class.
Read the syllabus.

January 21 *Professional Conduct*

Read: Material in Canvas
Textbook Pages 113-130 (Part I)

January 28 *Federal and Florida Constitutional Law*

Read: Material in Canvas
Textbook Pages 1-42 (Part I)

February 4 *Real Property & Contracts*

Read: Material in Canvas
Textbook Pages 43-65 and 131-149 (Part I)

*February 11 *Torts*

Read: Material in Canvas
Textbook Pages 151-178 (Part I)
***Quiz**

February 18 *Florida Civil Procedure*

Read: Material in Canvas
Textbook Pages 1-46 and 1- 12 (Part II)

February 25 *Florida Evidence*

Read: Material in Canvas
Textbook - Florida Distinctions to Multistate Evidence Rules (Part II)

*March 4 *Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure*

Read: Textbook Criminal Procedure Part II
Textbook Criminal Law 77-89 (Part I)
***Quiz**

March 11 *Trusts/Wills*

Read: Textbook Trusts (Part II)
Textbook Wills (Part II)

****March 17-21 Spring Break**

March 25 *Family Law*

Read: Textbook Pages 91-111 (Part II)

April 1 *Corporations/LLCs/Partnerships*

Read: Textbook Corporations (Part II)
Textbook Partnerships and LLCs (Part II)

*April 8 *Secured Transactions and Commercial Paper*

Read: Textbook Secured Transactions (Part II)
Textbook Commercial Paper (Part II)
***Quiz**

April 15 Evaluations; Final Review

Disclaimer:

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.