

LEGAL WRITING II

LAW 5793, Section V

3 credits

Spring 2026

Professor Kristen V. Hardy | k.hardy@law.ufl.edu

Office Location: HOL 375 (3rd Floor)

Office Hours (beginning February 3, 2026): Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*And by Appointment

Class Meeting Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:15 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. in HOL 285C.

COURSE OVERVIEW, SYLLABUS & POLICIES

Welcome to *Legal Writing II*! This document provides an overview of the course and its learning objectives, university policies, and a topical syllabus with assignments.

I.

Course Description and Learning Objectives

When most people think about what a lawyer does, most envision an advocate who argues on behalf of their client's interests. Now that you have mastered rule-based and analogical reasoning, IRAC/CREAC, and the Discussion Section Roadmap, it's time for you to develop your skills as an effective persuasive advocate.

This class is the second half of a two-part introductory legal writing program. This course is designed to teach you how to read, think, and write like a lawyer at the trial and appellate levels. We will focus on various forms of persuasive writing, including memoranda in support of trial motions and appellate briefs. Although this course prioritizes written advocacy, you will also have several opportunities to sharpen your oral advocacy skills and argue your cases at the trial and appellate levels.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Construct legal arguments based on competent and thorough research;
2. Explain those arguments persuasively in a writing that is supported by credibility, logic, legal precedent and a commanding narrative;
3. Effectively revise your own writings and those of your colleagues;
4. Operate in accordance with the fundamentals of the trial and appellate process;
5. Articulate your research findings and arguments in one-on-one meetings and simulated hearings;
6. Prepare and effectively present an oral argument in support of your legal position in a simulated appellate oral argument;
7. Apply ethical and professional standards to your written and oral advocacy; and
8. Engage with artificial intelligence (AI) professionally and responsibly and in accordance with course guidelines and instructions.

ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote approximately 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction. Each weekly class is approximately 3 hours in length, requiring at least 6 hours of preparation outside of class including reading the assigned materials, writing critical analyses, and developing your final paper.

Course Texts

1. Rocklin, Rocklin, Coughlin, and Patrick, *An Advocate Persuades* (2d ed. 2022), ISBN #978-1-5310-1910-5, Carolina Academic Press.
2. *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (22d ed. 2025).
3. Lexis/Nexis Interactive Citation Workstation.
 - a. Please update your professor and ICW TA now!
 - b. We will complete 3, 5, 9, 12, 13, 6, and 16. You are welcome to work ahead.
4. Any supplemental material posted to Canvas or handed out in class.

Course Website

We will use Canvas as an extension of our face-to-face course. You can access the course website [here](#). I will use Canvas to post our weekly topic modules, to send announcements, to provide detailed instructions for your assignments, and to post slides and supplemental materials.

To keep up with the course, you must check Canvas frequently. While you may customize your notifications as you wish, you are responsible for frequently reviewing this course page for updates and for accessing course content. You will use Canvas for turning in written work, for receiving feedback (from your TAs and from me)

Teaching Assistants

Your amazing Legal Writing TAs for this semester are:

1. Samuel Barragan (samuelbarragan@ufl.edu)
2. Jorge Diaz (jorge.diaz1@ufl.edu)
3. Denice Gonzalez (gonzalezdenice@ufl.edu)
4. Alan Noriega (alan.noriega@ufl.edu)

They are all 2L students who did well in their first-year writing courses and are committed to helping you succeed! You can always feel free to contact me with any course concerns or questions, but they are your best first line resource. All students will be assigned to a TA.

Office Hours

I will hold office hours beginning the week of February 3, 2026. My office is located in Holland Hall 375.

I will hold office hours on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** - virtual and in-person (*in office - HOL 375*).

You can drop by or schedule¹ an appointment (recommended). You can also meet with me via Zoom during any of these times.

I will try to accommodate any student who needs to meet with me, even if it is outside of the listed hours. These meetings will most likely be conducted via Zoom. Please contact me, should the need arise, and we will find a time that works.

Also, if you are sick, or have been exposed to someone who is, I am happy to meet with you via Zoom.

Note: Office hours and other conferences will not be held within the 24 hours prior to graded-assignment due dates.

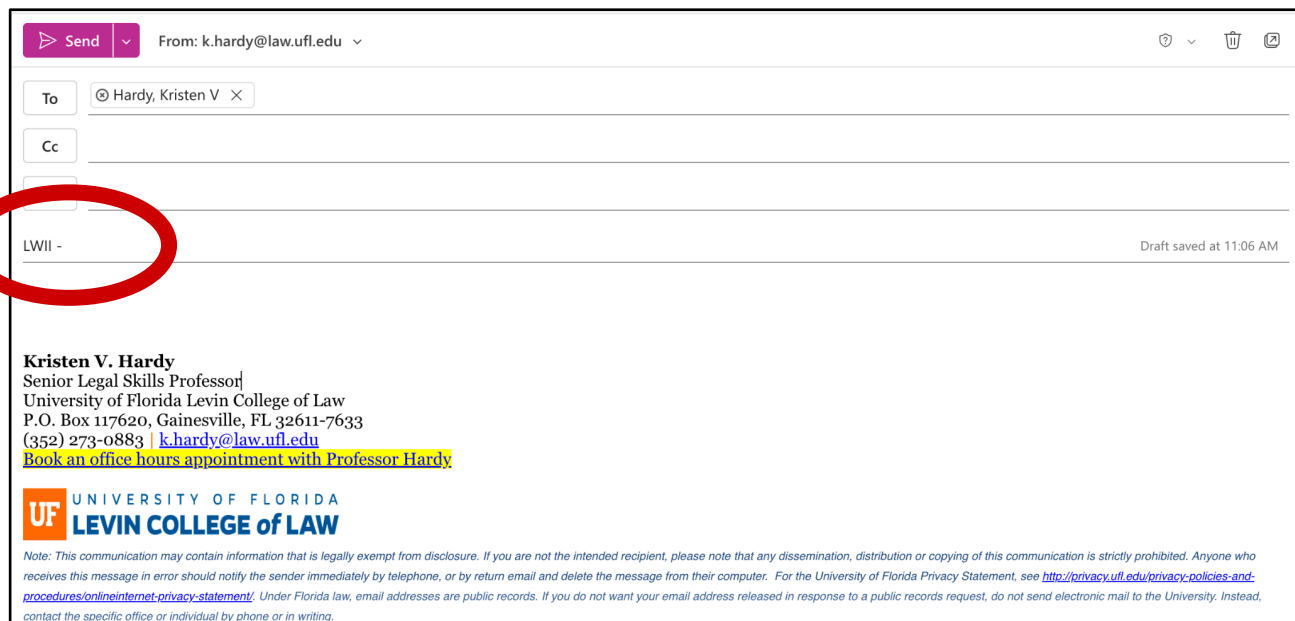
I reserve the right to amend this guidance as the semester progresses.

II.

Communication

My Communication With You. Changes in class meeting times or assignments may be necessary during the semester, and you will be notified of the changes as early as possible. Please make sure to check your e-mail and the course website daily for announcements.

Your Communication With Me. If you need to communicate with me via email, please add your class name to the subject line: “**LWII -**,” for instance:



Send From: k.hardy@law.ufl.edu

To: Hardy, Kristen V

Cc:

LWII -

Draft saved at 11:06 AM

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Senior Legal Skills Professor
University of Florida Levin College of Law
P.O. Box 117620, Gainesville, FL 32611-7633
(352) 273-0883 | k.hardy@law.ufl.edu
[Book an office hours appointment with Professor Hardy](#)

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Note: This communication may contain information that is legally exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, please note that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Anyone who receives this message in error should notify the sender immediately by telephone, or by return email and delete the message from their computer. For the University of Florida Privacy Statement, see <http://privacy.ufl.edu/privacy-policies-and-procedures/onlineinternet-privacy-statement/>. Under Florida law, email addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to the University. Instead, contact the specific office or individual by phone or in writing.

¹ You can find the scheduling link on our course Canvas page.

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Attendance and Participation

Attendance in class is required by both the ABA and the law school. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. This is a skills-based course, which means that your attendance is also essential to achieving the course objectives. Your active and consistent participation in the class discussions and exercises is expected and required. Teaching assistants will take roll during each class period.

Despite our best efforts, unplanned circumstances sometimes arise. Therefore, students are allowed two absences during the course of the semester. If you miss more than two classes, I may reduce your final grade. If you miss more than **six** classes, you **will** fail the course.

Religious Holidays. If you have a religious holiday that falls on a class date or assignment due date or otherwise prevents you from completing your work on time, please contact me well in advance of that holiday to arrange an accommodation and to obtain an excused absence.

Illnesses. If you are ill or have other critical extenuating circumstances that prevent you from being in class, you must contact me by email prior to the start of class to request an excused absence. In the case of an emergency that prevents you from contacting me prior to class, you must contact me as soon as possible thereafter to request an excused absence.

Job Interviews. As a general matter, job interviews do not count as excused absences. Please do your best to schedule job interviews at times that do not interfere with our class time! If you are unable to avoid a conflict, please contact me as soon as possible.

Grades

Grading Standards for Final Drafts

In conjunction with any assignment-specific standards, the grading standards applied to final assignments will be as follows:

A or A-: The paper is excellent in all respects. The analysis presented is persuasive, interesting, and well-reasoned. The writing style is clear, direct, and grammatically correct. The paper is generally free of typos, formatting problems and citation errors.

B+: The paper is very good in all respects. By and large, the analysis is persuasive and well-reasoned, the writing style is clear, direct, and grammatically correct, and the paper is free of typos, formatting problems and citation errors, but the paper lacks some of the sophistication present in an A or A- paper.

B: The paper constitutes a solid, well-reasoned and professional piece of work. The organization, the writing style, the use of citation and the formatting of the paper demonstrate mastery of the basics of persuasive legal writing and citation.

B- or below: The paper is notably deficient in one or more respects: the analysis presented is thin, conclusory, or poorly reasoned; the writing style is unclear, confusing, or difficult to follow; the organization is poor; or the paper suffers from extensive grammatical, formatting or citation errors.

The four major writing assignments in this course are: (1) a collaborative memo in support of a trial motion; (2) an independent memo in support of a trial motion; (3) a robust outline of the appellate brief; and, (4) an appellate brief. Assignments may entail extensive research, submission of multiple drafts,

meetings, and oral argument. There will also be additional research assignments, oral argument, activities, homework, and possible quizzes, all of which will count toward your participation grade.

10%	I reserve the right to amend this composition before the semester begins. 1. ICWs 2. Homework 3. Collaboration on collaborative memo 4. Outline checkpoint on individual memo 5. Individual writing conference with professor 6. Attendance and participation in TA office hours 7. Oral Argument Preparation (Practice with TA group & practice with opposing counsel) 8. Oral Argument Presentation 9. Classroom attendance and participation 10. Professionalism	
5%	WA²#1: Collaborative Memo in Support of a Trial Motion (Completion Points Only)	Due: Feb. 18
25%	WA#2: Independent Memo in Support of a Trial Motion	Due: Mar. 11
10%	WA#3: Independent Robust Outline of Appellate Brief (Completion Points Only)	Due: Apr. 8
50%	WA#4: Independent Appellate Brief	Due: Apr. 26
100%	TOTAL	

In this course, a student's grade will be based on the following:

Like all required courses, this course adheres to the law school's grading scale **and curve**, which includes both a mean and mandatory grade distribution. More information can be found [here](#).

Plagiarism and Quotations

Plagiarism is an Honor Code violation. Sources must be acknowledged, not only when you quote their text, but also when you paraphrase. (Citing the original source when you paraphrase not only avoids plagiarism, but also gives your position more credence by showing that someone else has supported your view).

Direct quotes must be indicated by quotation marks, and the source should be cited immediately after the quoted passage or at the conclusion of the sentence in which the quoted passage appears. .

Proofreading

Careless errors undermine your credibility. Excessive typographical, spelling, format, grammatical, or citation errors may cause a paper to be deemed unsatisfactory, regardless of its substantive merit. Proofreading is essential. Merely proofreading for typographical errors, however, will not reveal inaccuracies in your pinpoint citations. Therefore, you should specifically double-check the accuracy of your pinpoint citations against the original sources.

Formatting Requirements for Writing Assignments

All assignments (except the Final Project) are to be submitted electronically via the course Canvas website, in **Word** format (no .pdfs or Excel spreadsheets). In addition to any formatting requirements

² "WA" means writing assignment, which is considered a major assignment.

specific to an assignment, documents should conform to the following: (1) the text should be double-spaced, except for the headings (which should be single-spaced); (2) all writing assignments this term should be written in **14-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with full justification so that the document has smooth edges of text**; (3) each page should be numbered (bottom, center), except for the first page; (4) all legal citations must be underlined (no italics); and, (5) all citations should comply with the rules of *The Bluebook* or the FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE 9.800. With regard to spacing between sentences, you may use either one or two spaces. I always use two, but I recognize that many lawyers now commonly use one. No matter whether you use one or two, please be consistent in your document. Also note that full justification of your document may make it appear as though you have used more than two spaces between sentences. That is acceptable.

Evaluation and Feedback

You will give and receive various types of feedback in this course, including written, oral, individualized, and global feedback. When it's your time to give feedback, please do so with both care and candor. When it's your time to accept feedback, please accept the constructive guidance as a sign of respect—as evidence of the commentor's confidence in your ability to strengthen your skill set and to improve your work product. You can also think of written feedback as the beginning of a conversation; we can always discuss your work further in office hours - not during class time.

Submission of Assignments

Assignment Submission. You must turn in all assignments by the given deadline. *Computer problems, including e-mail or Canvas problems, should be foreseen and are not grounds for an extension.* Plan your time accordingly.

Late Major Assignments. The following assignments are considered “major:”

1. WA#1
2. WA#2
3. WA#3
4. WA#4

If you turn in a major assignment late, your grade will be lowered by 10% per day (24-hour period from the date and time the assignment is due). No assignment will be accepted after the third late day.

Late Homework Assignments. If a homework assignment is not submitted by the deadline, a student may submit their work up to 24 hours after the due date for half credit. These assignments will not be accepted after 24 hours unless a student has an accommodation on file or unless the student was absent due to religious observance.

Extensions. Deadline extensions will be granted only for serious matters beyond the student's control. If you find yourself in an emergency situation, contact me in advance of a deadline or as soon as possible after the deadline.

Professional Behavior

Respectful Class Community. We are all very privileged to find ourselves within the legal academy. As I hope you will quickly learn, I have a tremendous amount of respect for each of my students as people with their own lives, families, and opinions outside of the classroom. I will do my best to get to know each one of you. I hope that you will find my classroom to be a collegial and encouraging space. It is my expectation that each student will contribute to that community atmosphere by respecting their colleagues and professor.

Class Etiquette. Please do not arrive late to class or leave early unless you have an extenuating circumstance. Put your cell phones on vibrate during our class time. I reserve the right to lower your final grade if you engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment. You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to fully participate in class activities and assignments. We will be using computers in class frequently, so do plan to have them available each class. However, if your computer use becomes a distraction, I will ask you to stow it.

Zoom Policy. On occasion, we may need to use Zoom to facilitate a class discussion. Cameras are required to remain ON during the entire session. Please dress appropriately—as you would during an in-person class—during Zoom sessions. Please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

AI Policy. You may use generative AI only when I have expressly allowed you to do so and within the specific guidelines that you are given. I have the right to supplement this guidance at my discretion.

Policies to Prevent the Spread of Illness

Faculty, staff, and students are all expected to follow the policies and requirements set forth by the University of Florida with respect to preventing the spread of illness. These policies are subject to change from time to time. Please refer to [university guidance](#) for the latest guidelines. Thank you, in advance, for your community mindedness and for your efforts to help keep our law school community healthy.

Please do not come to class if you are feeling sick in any way.

UF Levin College of Law Standard Syllabus Policies

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies can be found on [the law school's website](#), and includes guidance on:

1. the [UF Law Honor Code](#),
2. [Grading Policies](#), and
3. [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#).

UF Academic Policies and Resources

Other information about UF academic policies and resources can be found [here](#).

Student Academic Services

If you have any questions or concerns related to these academic policies, you may contact Dean Brian Mitchell at the Office of Academic Administration. Contact gatoraid@law.ufl.edu or contact Dean Mitchell directly at mitchell@law.ufl.edu.

Student Social Services

Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food, lacks a safe place to live, or who is experiencing any other personal hardship, is encouraged to contact the Office of Student Affairs at the phone number or email address that appears below. If you are comfortable doing so, you may also notify me so that I can direct you to further resources or you may contact Dean Janice Shaw at the

Student Life and Career Services Office. Contact gatoraid@law.ufl.edu or contact Dean Shaw directly at shaw@law.ufl.edu.

Counseling and Psychological Services

Many students at University of Florida Levin College of Law face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional health. The law school and Gainesville community offer a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings.

You can reach the law school's mental health counselor, **Ritzy Ettinger** at email rettinger@ufl.edu or call **352-273-0620**.

You can also reach out to the following entities:

UF Counseling & Wellness Center/Gator-2-Gator

401 Peabody Hall

Gainesville, FL

Phone: 352-392-1575

Website: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/services/crisis/>

UF Crisis Hotline (24 hours/7 days/week)

Phone: 352-392-1575

Alachua County Crisis Center

Phone: 352-264-6789

Website: <https://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/CSS/CrisisCenter/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

University of Florida * "U Matter, We Care"

Phone: 352-294-CARE (2273)

Email: umatter@ufl.edu

Website: <https://umatter.ufl.edu>

Gator Safe App

For a personal safety toolbox and other helpful links, download the GatorSafe App



<https://police.ufl.edu/services/community-services/gatorsafe-app/>

III. **Course Outline**³

³ This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we proceed through the term, I may need to alter them for various reasons. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

	Class	Class Subject(s)	Assigned Reading & Related Homework (Due Before Class Unless Otherwise Noted)
Week 1	1.20 class 1	Introduction to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Persuasive Writing Case File #1 WA#1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HW¹: Upload <i>Two Truths and a Lie</i> Video by Jan. 20 Review Syllabus and Canvas Course Read: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5
	1.22 class 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial Practice (including complaints, trial motions and supporting memos) WA#1 Research Primer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Chapters 8
Week 2	1.27 class 3	Collaborative Trial Practice: Research and Charting Caselaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Chapters 3 and 8 HW²: Complete “Research, Case Chart, and Rule Synthesis” Assignment (Collab.) Submit by 1.30 at 11.59 pm
	1.29 class 4	Collaborative Trial Practice: Themes for Persuasive Arguments and Persuasive Statement of Facts (SOF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Chapters 4 and 10 HW³: Draft a theme and SOF (Collab.) Submit by 1.30 at 11.59 pm
Week 3	2.3 class 5	Collaborative Trial Practice: Organizing Arguments; Point Headings; Initial Cs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-read: Chapters 3 and 5 Read: Chapters 6 HW⁴: Draft Point Headings and Initial Cs (Collab.) Submit by 2.7 at 11.59 pm HW⁵: Decide on cases for R and E sections (Collab.) Submit by 2.7 at 11.59 pm
	2.5 class 6	Collaborative Trial Practice: Persuasive Rules and Case Illustrations for the CREAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-read: Chapter 6 HW⁶: Draft/Peer Review/Revise R and E Sections (Collab.) Submit by 2.7 at 11.59 pm
Week 4	2.10 class 7	Collaborative Trial Practice: Persuasion in the Application of the CREAC/Handling Counterarguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Chapters 7.I and 7.II Read: Supplemental Material on Canvas HW⁷: Draft the Application (Collab.) Submit by 2.14 at 11:59 pm
	2.12 class 8	Collaborative Trial Practice: Introductions and Preliminary Statements for Trial Memos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-read: Chapter 8 and Appendix B Read: Supplemental Material on Canvas HW⁸: Draft the Introduction and Preliminary Statement (Collab.)

	Class	Class Subject(s)	Assigned Reading & Related Homework (Due Before Class Unless Otherwise Noted)
			Submit by 2.14 at 11:59 pm
Week 5	2.17 class 9	Editing for Persuasion: Focus, Emphasis Flow; Checking Citations, and Quotations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Chapter 7 • Read: Supplemental Material on Canvas
		2.18 - WA#1 Due (11:59 p.m.) (see Canvas Assignment for instructions)	
	2.19 class 10	Introduction to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case File #2 • WA#2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Case File #2 • HW: Begin procedural and substantive research and case chart; make a list of critical facts in preparation for SOF No Upload
Week 6	2.24 class 11	Independent Trial Practice: Federal Research and Case Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Supplemental Material on Canvas • HW⁹: Complete “Research, Case Chart, and Rule Synthesis” Assignment Submit by 2.28 at 11:59 pm
	2.26 class 12	Independent Trial Practice: Point Headings, Rules, Case Illustrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Case File #2 and Related Cases • HW: Begin drafting your outline, the rule sections and case illustrations No Upload
Week 7	3.3 class 13	Independent Trial Practice: Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Case File #2 and Related Cases • HW: Draft the application section (including main argument, counter and resolutions) No Upload
	3.5 class 14	Independent Trial Practice: SOF; Introduction; Preliminary Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Case File #2 and Related Cases • HW¹⁰: Robust Outline of WA#2 Due Submit by 3.6 at 11:59 pm
Week 8	3.10 class 15	Editing; Proofreading; Cite Checking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: No Reading • Finalize WA#2; • Bring Full Draft to Class
		3.11- WA#2 Due (11:59 p.m.) (see Canvas Assignment for instructions)	

	Class	Class Subject(s)	Assigned Reading & Related Homework (Due Before Class Unless Otherwise Noted)
	3.12 class 16	Asynchronous Class: Introduction to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case File #3 WA#3 and WA#4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Case File #3
	 SPRING BREAK  March 15-20		
Week 9	3.24 class 17	Independent Appellate Practice: Transitioning to Appellate Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Chapter 9 HW: Continue researching and charting case law No Upload
	3.26 class 18	Independent Appellate Practice: Roadmaps, Point Headings, and Subheadings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-read: Chapter 3, 7, Table 7-L and Table 6-R HW¹¹: Complete “Research, Case Chart, and Rule Synthesis” Assignment Submit by 3.28 at 11:59 pm
Week 10	3.31 class 19	Independent Appellate Practice: Persuasion through Case Law Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Appendix C Read: Supplemental material available on Canvas HW¹²: Complete ICW 12 and 13 Submit by 4.4 at 11:59 pm HW¹³: Complete sketch outline Submit by 4.4 at 11:59 pm
	4.2 class 20	Independent Appellate Practice: Revisiting Theme; Appellate QP; and Summary of Argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-read: Chapter 9.3 Read: Supplemental Reading (on Canvas) HW¹⁴: Complete ICW 6,7, and 16 Submit by 4.4 at 11:59 pm
Week 11	4.7 class 21	Independent Appellate Practice: Statement of Jurisdiction; SOCAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Case File #3
		4.8 - WA#3 Due (11:59 p.m.) (see Canvas Assignment for instructions)	
	4.9 class 22	Asynchronous Class: Watch Moot Court Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: No Reading HW¹⁵: Complete Reflection Questions

	Class	Class Subject(s)	Assigned Reading & Related Homework (Due Before Class Unless Otherwise Noted)
			Submit by 4.10 at 11:59 pm
Week 12	4.14	Individual Student Conferences (<i>will count for class 23</i>) No Live Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: No Reading • Sign up for available conference time slot
	4.16	Individual Student Conferences (<i>will count for class 23</i>) No Live Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: No Reading • Sign up for available conference time slot
Week 13	4.20 class 24	Oral Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Chapter 11 • Read: Supplemental Reading (on Canvas) • HW: Practice oral arguments with opposing counsel and TA No Upload
	4.23 class 25	Appellate Brief and Oral Argument Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: No Reading • Finalize WA#4
		4.26 - WA#4 Due (11:59 p.m.) (see Canvas Assignment for instructions)	
	4.27-4.29	Final Oral Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evenings (5:00-8:00 p.m.). You will be assigned a time slot close to the date; please clear your calendars for the entire week
	4.28 class 26	Wrap Up TA Panel Course Evaluations	