

University of Maryland Law School

Lawyering Fundamentals —Online

Course Syllabus

Summer 2026

Welcome to Lawyering Fundamentals—Online!

Overview

Lawyering Fundamentals is designed to prepare you for the law school experience. The course includes simulated classes in which you will be questioned on the assigned reading, interactive modules that will cover case briefing, outlining, essay writing and other helpful law school success strategies, and many opportunities for you to reflect on your learning and progress. Most importantly, however, the course will help demystify some of the law school teaching methods to help you acclimatize to law school sooner so you can succeed faster in the classroom.

Instructor Contact Information

Professor: Micah J. Yarbrough
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(410)706-3943

Course Support: support@lawstudentonline.com

Office hours: TBA

Online Classroom

Lawyering Fundamentals is completely asynchronous and hosted on D2L/Brightspace. All assignments will be completed in the online classroom. Please e-mail course support at support@lawstudentonline.com if you have any issues accessing the course.

Evaluation

Lawyering Fundamentals is not a credit-bearing course that will be factored into your law school GPA. However, you will receive a grade on your performance at the end of the course if you complete the entire course assignments. A score of 65% or higher is considered successful completion or “passing” for this course. Your grade will be based on:

1. Participation – 50%

- Timely and good faith completion of pre-course survey, all assigned lecture modules, case brief submissions, multiple-choice quizzes, discussion board posts, essay submissions, post-course survey, and other online activities.

2. Final Exam – 50%

- The final exam will consist of one essay and 33 multiple-choice questions.

Reading and Homework Assignments

You are expected to complete the module segments by the dates provided in the below Assignment Schedule. You may be given additional assignments during the course. Your instructor reserves the right to change assignments with sufficient notice.

Assignment Schedule

Day	Module Topic	Assignments Must be completed in the order listed. Assignments are due by 11PM ET on the second day listed unless otherwise specified. You must complete all assignments in each module before the next module opens. Plan to spend 2-3 hours per day on assigned coursework.
Pre-Course Work 7/20	Pre-Course Work	<i>Complete all activities under the Welcome – Start here Module:</i> • Review Co2urse Syllabus • Read Navigating Your Course Document • Read Lawyering Fundamentals Learning Outcomes • Download and save or print the Torts Case Materials • Complete Discussion Board Post #1: Introduce Yourself
Days 1 & 2 7/21 & 7/22	Introduction to the Course, Lawyering, and the Legal System	<i>Complete all activities under the Introduction to the Course Module:</i> • Complete Pre-Course Survey • Read “The Four Anchoring Principles of Lawyering Fundamentals” • Complete Introduction to Lawyering Lecture Part 1 and Part 2

		• Complete Introduction to the Legal System Lecture • Complete Discussion Board Post #2: Learning Outcomes
Days 3 & 4 7/23 & 7/24	Socratic Discussion: Intent, Demystification Part I, and Introduction to Case Reading and Briefing Parts I and II	<i>Complete all activities under the Intent Part I Module:</i> • Read Legal Reading and Case Briefing FAQ Documents • Complete Case Reading and Briefing Lecture: Part I • Review Case Briefing template “Cheat Sheet” • Read <i>Garratt v. Dailey</i> and submit case brief • Complete <i>Garratt v. Dailey</i> Socratic class discussion lecture • Read “Preparing Yourself for Learning in the Socratic Classroom” document • Complete Demystification Lecture: Part I • Complete Case Reading and Briefing Lecture: Part II
Days 5 & 6 7/27 & 7/28	Socratic Discussion: Intent (continued), Demystification Part II, Case Reading and Briefing Parts III	<i>Complete all activities under the Intent Part II Module:</i> • Read <i>Spivey v. Battaglia</i> and submit case brief • Complete <i>Spivey v. Battaglia</i> Socratic class discussion lecture • Complete Demystification Lecture: Part II

		• Read <i>Ranson v. Kitner</i>, <i>McGuire v. Almy</i>, and <i>Talmage v. Smith</i> and submit case briefs • Complete <i>Ranson v. Kitner</i>, <i>McGuire v. Almy</i>, and <i>Talmage v. Smith</i> Socratic class discussion lecture and post-class activity. • Complete Case Reading and Briefing Lecture: Part III
Days 7 & 8 7/29 & 7/30	Socratic Discussion: Battery, Demystification Part III, Introduction to Outlining Part I	<i>Complete all activities under the Battery Module:</i> • Complete <i>Wallace v. Rosen</i> Case Briefing Exercise • Read <i>Cole v. Turner</i> and <i>Wallace v. Rosen</i> and submit case briefs • Complete <i>Cole v. Turner</i> and <i>Wallace v. Rosen</i> Socratic class discussion lecture • Complete Demystification Lecture: Part III • Read <i>Fisher v. Carrousel Motor Hotel, Inc.</i> and submit case brief • Complete <i>Fisher v. Carrousel Motor Hotel, Inc.</i> Socratic class discussion lecture • Complete Introduction to Outlining Lecture: Part I
Days 9 & 10 7/31 & 8/3	Multiple-Choice Quiz #1 and Review, Socratic Discussion: Assault, Introduction to Outlining Part II, and Introduction to Essay Writing Part I	<i>Complete all activities under the Assault Module:</i> • Complete Intent & Battery Quiz #1 • Complete Intent & Battery Quiz #1 Review Lecture • Review Intent & Battery Quiz Explanatory Answers • Read <i>I de S et. ux. V. W de S</i> and <i>Western Union Telegraph Co.</i> and submit case briefs

		• Complete <i>I de S et. ux. V. W de S</i> and <i>Western Union Telegraph Co.</i> Socratic class discussion lecture • Complete Introduction to Outlining Lecture: Part II • Complete Introduction to Essay Writing Lecture: Part I • Complete and Submit Practice Essay #1 • Review sample answer for Practice Essay #1 • Complete Discussion Board Post #3: Quiz Self-Reflection
Days 11 & 12 8/4 & 8/5	Multiple-Choice Quiz #2 and Review, Socratic Discussion: IIED, Introduction to Essay Writing Part II	<i>Complete all activities under the IIED Module:</i> • Complete Battery & Assault Quiz #2 • Complete Battery & Assault Quiz #2 Review Lecture • Review Battery & Assault Quiz #2 Explanatory Answers • Read <i>State Rubbish Collectors Ass'n v. Siliznoff</i> and submit case brief • Complete <i>State Rubbish Collectors Ass'n v. Siliznoff</i> Socratic class discussion lecture • Complete Introduction to Essay Writing Lecture: Part II • Complete and Submit Practice Essay #2 • Review sample answer for Practice Essay #2 • Complete Discussion Board Post #4: Essay Self-Reflection

Days 13 & 14 8/6 & 8/7	Socratic Discussion: Consent, Introduction to Outlining Part III, Essay Practice, and Law School Skills Review	<i>Complete all activities under the Consent Module:</i> • Read <i>O'Brien v. Cunard S.S. Co.</i> and <i>Hackbart v. Cincinnati Bengals</i> and submit case briefs • Complete <i>O'Brien v. Cunard S.S. Co.</i> and <i>Hackbart v. Cincinnati Bengals</i> Socratic class discussion lecture • Complete Introduction to Outlining Lecture: Part III • Complete and Submit Practice Essay #3 • Review sample scoring rubric for Practice Essay #3 • Complete Law School Skills Review Lecture • Complete Discussion Board Post #5: Learning Outcomes Reflection • Study for Final Exam
Final Exam Window 8/8-8/12	Final Exam	<i>Complete all activities under the Final Exam Module.</i> • Complete final Exam by 5PM ET on 8/12 • Complete post-course survey

Post Exam Review

Course participants that complete all assignments and submit the final exam will receive an individual performance report (estimated return date early September). Participants will also receive an invitation to attend a collective workshop discussion regarding the school's overall course performance (date TBA).