

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **JURI 515**

#### **LEGAL WRITING AND ANALYSIS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will further develop student research methods, research strategies, and statistical analysis skills necessary to both produce and critically analyze research reports and data compilations used in forming legal analysis. Students will further develop and apply professional writing skills in the research paper drafting process and fully incorporate techniques as outlined in this course and the Introduction to Legal Systems and Research course.

#### **RATIONALE**

Legal professionals must communicate in various methods, but one of the most important is through the written word. Thus, legal writing and analysis skills are perhaps the most important skills that a legal professional can possess. The student will examine two of the main types of roles in which lawyers engage: predictive and persuasive writing. Once the student understands these two types of writing roles he or she will then draft documents that demonstrate his or her understanding of these two types of writing roles.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze case law in order to draft case briefs.
- B. Analyze facts and case law in order to draft an office memo.
- C. Analyze case law, statute, and constitutional provisions in order to draft a brief in support of a client.
- D. Demonstrate an understanding of legal writing skills and proper legal citation style.
- E. Analyze all of the preceding in light of a distinctively evangelical Christian worldview.
- F. Demonstrate skills necessary to draft a professional letter.

#### **V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a 400–600-word thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. The student must support his or her assertions with at least 1 scholarly source in current Bluebook format. In addition to the thread, the student is required to create a 150–250-word reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be supported with at least 1 scholarly source in current Bluebook format.

- D. Case Briefs

The student will draft four 1-page synopses of four assigned cases. The student will briefly explain the facts, issues, holding, and rationale of each case assigned.

- E. Predictive Office Memo

The student will draft a 2–3-page Predictive Office Memo based on the four cases assigned for the Case Briefs and a factual scenario.

- F. Brief: Rough Draft

The student will create a rough draft of a 3–5-page persuasive brief based on the factual scenario and cases assigned.

G. Brief: Final Draft

The student will finalize the 3–5-page rough draft of the persuasive brief. Note: LL.M students must add an additional 2,500 words of writing in their final paper. This is a Pass/Fail component of this assignment. This is not required of the JM students.

H. Professional Letter

The student will draft a 1–2-page Professional Letter to his or her “client” explaining the decision of the court.

I. Quizzes (3)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions, and have a 1-hour time limit.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Case Briefs	100
Predictive Office Memo	200
Brief: Rough Draft	100
Brief: Final Draft	200
Professional Letter	100
Quizzes (Modules 2, 4, 6)	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **JURI 515**

Textbook: Edwards, *Legal Writing and Analysis* (2015).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Edwards: chs. 1–5 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Case Briefs	10 0 100
<b>2</b>	Edwards: chs. 6–9 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Quiz 1	50 50
<b>3</b>	Edwards: chs. 10–12 1 presentation	Predictive Office Memo	200
<b>4</b>	Edwards: chs. 14–16 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Quiz 2	50 50
<b>5</b>	Edwards: chs. 17–18 1 presentation	Brief: Rough Draft	100
<b>6</b>	1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 3 Quiz 3	50 50
<b>7</b>	Edwards: chs. 20–21 1 presentation	Brief: Final Draft	200
<b>8</b>	Edwards: ch. 13 2 presentations	Professional Letter	100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.