

UMKC School of Law ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION Summer 2009

COURSE NAME:

Advanced Legal Writing: Practical Skills

COURSE NUMBER:

L8707C

PROFESSOR:

Wilson

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:

Civil Procedure I & II, Introduction to Law I & II

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:

Interest in improving legal writing skills

COURSE BOOKS:

Required:

Beyond the Basics (2d ed.) by Mary Barnard Ray and Barbara J. Cox

Plain and Accurate Style in Court Papers by Irwin Alterman

Recommended:

Guide to Legal Writing Style (3d ed.) by Terri LeClerc

Legal Writing: Getting It Right and Getting It Written by Mary Barnard Ray and Jill Ramsfield

Plain English for Lawyers by Richard Wydick

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (18th ed).

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

Out-of-class assignments (85%)

In-class work/assignments (15%)

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Advanced Legal Writing: Practical Skills emphasizes the skills and techniques employed in drafting various common litigation and transactional documents. The emphasis is on writing, both in and out of class. Class time is spent discussing, writing and evaluating a variety of legal documents, with out-of-class time spent drafting and revising graded litigation and transactional documents.

COURSE CONTENT:

In-class writing exercises, out-of-class text and writing assignments, lectures, and group discussion and evaluation.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

This course provides practical, hands-on experience in drafting the documents attorneys are asked to prepare in their first years of practice. Because the class focuses in part on understanding and drafting common litigation documents, it necessarily includes discussions and reference to the rules of civil procedure.

Additionally, because this class focuses on writing, the improved writing skills will transfer to the essay and practical skills portions of the Bar Exam. Moreover, at least one of the assigned documents has the potential to serve as a writing sample for prospective employers.