COURSE NAME: Advanced Legal Writing: Appellate Brief Writing

COURSE NUMBER: L8707F

PROFESSOR: Jeremiah J. Morgan

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: Civil Procedure I

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Appellate Advocacy II (Law 8747) or Appellate Advocacy III (Law 8748)

COURSE BOOKS:

REQUIRED: HELENE S. SHAPO ET AL., WRITING AND ANALYSIS IN THE LAW (5th ed.)

RECOMMENDED:

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

The grade will be based primarily on brief writing exercises and rewrites, but class participation will also be considered.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Preparation of federal and state court appellate briefs, including the jurisdictional statement; statement of the case; statement of facts; points relied on; statement of the issues presented; summary of the argument; argument; and responses and replies to arguments. Prepares students to outline and organize arguments; edit and revise written work; and finalize an appellate brief.

COURSE CONTENT:

Combining instruction and practical application, students will learn the key principles and parts of appellate brief writing and complete exercises to demonstrate and refine those principles and skills. It is anticipated that the course content will be covered as follows:

I. Overview and Organization of Appellate Briefing
II. Brainstorming, Outlining, and Structure
III. Argument and Summary of the Argument
IV. Statement of Facts and Statement of the Case
V. Editing and Appearance
VI. Consistency and Carefulness
VII. The Responsive Brief
RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

Nearly all attorneys, and particularly litigation attorneys, will have opportunities to write appellate briefs throughout their careers. Those attorneys that choose to focus on appellate practice will have numerous opportunities to develop, oversee, write, and edit appellate briefs. Even those attorneys that do not regularly write appellate briefs benefit from understanding the principles and skills necessary for effective brief writing. This course will assist students in laying the foundation for a legal career that will undoubtedly involve the writing of many appellate briefs.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION:

Although the Missouri/Multi-State Bar Examination does not necessarily involve the writing of an entire appellate brief, the examination certainly demands the application of principles and skills refined in the appellate writing process.