

ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:	LAW STUDY AND EXAMS
COURSE NUMBER:	LAW 503
PROFESSOR NAME:	Connie Burtnett
PROFESSOR CONTACT INFO:	(707) 495-9936
SCHEDULE:	Spring/Summer 2014, Thursdays, 5:30-6:20pm, Rm # 209
UNIT:	1 unit
COURSE TYPE:	Required
PREREQUISITES:	None
COREQUISITES:	None
TEXTS AND MATERIALS: (Identification of any texts, materials and references used throughout the course.)	<u>Required:</u> <i>Flemings Essay Examination Writing Workbook, Vol. 1.</i> ISBN # 9781932440584
COURSE DESCRIPTION:	An orientation to the study of law school examinations consisting of exam writing and techniques for the effective study of law.
COURSE OBJECTIVES / ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES: (What students will be expected to know and be able to do at the end of the course. What skills or knowledge will be gained by the end of the course.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will learn and practice strategies for law school exam writing. 2. Student will explore techniques for effective learning in law school.
FORMAT OVERVIEW / METHOD OF INSTRUCTION (Description of how the course will be taught, including breakdown of lecture, practicum, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course material will be presented in a lecture-discussion and Socratic method format. • Students should be prepared to evaluate old exams in class to spot issues and discuss how to analyze exam issues. • Students will practice writing exams.
EXAMS:	Exams begin promptly as indicated in each Law School semester's Exam Schedule. Take-home exams and papers must be submitted to the Law School office by 6 p.m. on the due date, unless otherwise noted. All students must take examinations as scheduled. It is recognized that in special circumstances and due to emergencies, it may be necessary to schedule delayed examinations. An emergency is defined as a serious illness or injury to the student or a member of his or her immediate family. Special Circumstances are defined as other situations that, in the opinion of the Dean, are sufficient to warrant delay in taking examinations. <i>Any student taking delayed examinations <u>must have the prior written approval of the Dean.</u></i> No examination may be taken <i>prior</i> to the day of the regularly scheduled examination. If delayed examinations are approved by the Dean, a fee of \$75 will be charged for each such exam taken. Failure to complete an exam is not sufficient reason for a late or retake exam.
GRADING / ASSESSMENT	Empire College uses the following grading system for this class:

<p>CRITERIA:</p>	<p><u>Pass/Fail Classes:</u> 65 - 100 P Pass/Credit 64 and Below F Fail/No Credit</p> <p>To achieve a passing grade, students must complete all assignments in a reasonably proficient manner and use their best efforts on practice exams, midterm and final.</p>
<p>ATTENDANCE:</p>	<p>This class meets for 10 weeks in one semester and then overlaps and resumes the final 5 weeks in the next semester. The attendance policy pertains to the entire 15 weeks of the course.</p> <p>Under the standards of the Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California, “regular and punctual attendance” at classes is necessary to satisfy residency requirements. Students should plan to attend all classes. A minimum of 80 percent attendance is required in each course. The instructor will take role at each class session. A student must attend the entire class session in order to be counted as present for that class session. Students who arrive excessively late, as determined by the instructor, or who leave class before it is dismissed by the instructor, will not be counted as present for that class session.</p>
<p>ASSIGNMENTS: Spring 2014 Semester</p>	<p>Weekly assignments</p>
<p>Week 1:</p>	<p>Introduction to law school studies. Helpful study aids. Now is the time to outline. The importance of study groups and how to make them work for you. Time management strategies.</p> <p>Assignment due next week: Hand in Homicide definitions. Memorize them.</p>
<p>Week 2:</p>	<p>Introduction to essay exam. IRAC and other exam writing tools. Rules are your friends—get to know them now. In-class issue-spotting and practice structuring exams.</p> <p>Assignment due next week: Hand in definitions of Intentional Torts. Memorize them.</p>
<p>Week 3:</p>	<p>The MBE as study aid and as opportunity to display your vast knowledge of the law on midterms and final exams. More discussion of outlining.</p> <p>Assignment due next week: Hand in your Homicide outline. Use at least 3 sources to create your own outline in your own words, including casebook as one of your 3 sources.</p>
<p>Week 4:</p>	<p>The structure of criminal law exams. Review of essay questions and MBEs.</p> <p>Assignment due next week: Hand in your Intentional Torts outline. Use at least 3 sources to create your own outline in your own words, including casebook as one of your 3 sources.</p>
<p>Week 5:</p>	<p>The structure of torts exams. Review of essay questions and MBEs.</p>

	Assignment due next week: Hand in your Contract Offer & Acceptance outline. Use at least 3 sources to create your own outline in your own words, including casebook as one of your 3 sources.
Week 6:	The structure of contracts exams. Review of essay questions and MBEs. Assignment due next week: Take-home criminal law practice exam.
Week 7:	More on criminal law exams. Review of essay questions. Assignment due next week: Take-home torts practice exam.
Week 8:	More on torts exams. Review of essay questions. Assignment due next week: Take-home contracts practice exam.
Week 9:	More on contracts exams. Review of essay questions. Assignment due next week: Hand in your Property Crimes outline. Use at least 3 sources to create your own outline in your own words, including casebook as one of your 3 sources.
Week 10:	In-class midterm.
Continuing into Summer 2014 Semester	
Week 11:	Special issues: crimes. Assignment due next week: Take-home criminal law practice exam.
Week 12:	Special issues: torts. Assignment due next week: Take-home torts practice exam.
Week 13:	Special issues: contracts. Assignment due next week: Take-home contracts practice exam.
Week 14:	Discussion of midterms. Focusing on areas that need work. Assignment due next week: Hand in your Torts Negligence outline. Use at least 3 sources to create your own outline in your own words, including casebook as one of your 3 sources.
Week 15: Exam TBA	Final Exam Date will be published by Law School Office –be sure to check Exam Schedule when published.