

ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:	LAW STUDY AND EXAMS
COURSE NUMBER:	LAW 503
PROFESSOR NAME:	Murray Cockerill Esq.
PROFESSOR CONTACT INFO:	Email: mcockerill@empirecollege.com
SCHEDULE:	Thursdays, 5:30-6:20pm, Rm #209 Spring/Summer 2019
UNIT:	1 unit
COURSE TYPE:	Required
PREREQUISITES:	None
COREQUISITES:	None
TEXTS AND MATERIALS: (Identification of any texts, materials and references used throughout the course.)	<p><u>Required:</u> <i>Strategies & Tactics for the FINZ Multistate Method (Emanuel Bar Review)</i>, Steven Finz and Alex Ruskell, May 13, 2016, ISBN #9781454873143 (FINZ)</p> <p><u>and</u></p> <p><i>Flemings Essay Examination Writing Workbook, Vol. 1.</i> ISBN # 9781932440584 (Flemings)</p>
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:	The in-class midterm and final exams begin promptly at the start of class. 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. Any student taking delayed examinations <u>must have the prior written approval of the Dean.</u> No examination may be taken <u>prior</u> to the day of the regularly scheduled examination. If delayed

	examinations are approved by the Dean, <u>a fee of \$75 will be charged for each such exam taken.</u> Failure to complete an exam is not sufficient reason for a late or retake exam.
GRADING / ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:	<p>Empire College uses the following grading system for this class:</p> <p><u>Pass/Fail Classes:</u> 65 - 100 P Pass/Credit 64 and Below F Fail/No Credit (Only numeric grades are used to calculate grade point average.)</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>
ATTENDANCE:	<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 roll 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>
Spring 2019 Semester	Class Topics and Weekly Assignments:
Week 1: Feb. 7, 2019	<p>Introduction to law school studies and how to approach first year. Active learning, organizing core class material into outlines, memorizing definitions and practicing writing.</p> <p>Assignment for next week: Read pp. 1-19 of textbook. Draft homicide definitions.</p>
Week 2: Feb. 14, 2019	<p>Introduction to MBEs (multiple choice questions) and essay exams. IRAC and exam structure.</p> <p>Assignment for next week: Draft definitions of intentional torts and definitions related to forming contracts. Do 3 MBE contract questions and 3 torts MBE questions from your textbook on topics you’ve covered in those classes.</p>
Week 3: Feb. 21, 2019	<p>Issue-spotting and practice structuring exams.</p> <p>Assignment for next week: Draft your homicide outline. Use at least 3 sources (e.g., casebook, class notes, hornbooks) to create your own outline in your own words. Do 3 criminal law MBE questions from your textbook re: topics you’ve covered in crimes class.</p>
Week 4: Feb. 28, 2019	<p>In-class practice criminal law exam. Open book and note.</p> <p>Assignment for next week: Draft your intentional torts outline. Use</p>

	at least 3 sources (e.g., casebook, class notes, hornbooks) to create your own outline in your own words. Do 3 torts MBE questions.
Week 5: March 7, 2019	Review of prior week's in-class practice criminal law exam. Assignment for next week: Draft your contract offer & acceptance outline. Use at least 3 sources (e.g., casebook, class notes, hornbooks) to create your own outline in your own words. Do 3 MBE contract questions.
Week 6: March 14, 2019	In-class practice torts exam. Open book and note. Assignment for next week: Do 5 criminal law MBE questions. Update criminal law outline.
Week 7: March 21, 2019	Review of prior week's in-class practice torts exam. Open book and note. Assignment for next week: Do 5 torts MBE questions. Update your torts outline.
Week 8: March 28, 2019	In-class practice contracts exam. Open book and note. Assignment for next week: Do 5 contracts MBE questions. Update your contracts outline.
Week 9: April 4, 2019	Review of prior week's in-class practice contracts exam. Assignment for next week: Study for midterm!
Week 10: April 11, 2019 <u>MIDTERM</u>	In-class MIDTERM (criminal law) from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in regular room, unless otherwise instructed. One essay; no MBEs.
Continuing into Summer 2019 Semester:	
Week 11: May 9, 2019	Review of midterm. Assignment for next week: Do 5 criminal law MBE questions.
Week 12: May 16, 2019	Writing exercises. Assignment for next week: Do 5 torts MBE questions.
Week 13: May 23, 2019	Writing exercises. Assignment for next week: Do 5 contracts MBE questions.
Week 14: May 30, 2019	Some special issues covered in second semester classes. Assignment due next week: Study for final!
Week 15: June 6, 2019 <u>FINAL</u>	In class FINAL EXAM (torts) from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in regular room, unless otherwise instructed. One essay; no MBEs.

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Syllabus subject to change.