

ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:	Survey Course on CA Bar Exam Preparation & Skills
COURSE NUMBER:	LAW E539-1, -2
PROFESSOR(S) NAME:	Professor Jeff Berk Professor Bruce Mitteldorf
PROFESSOR CONTACT INFO:	Professor Jeff Berk – 707-565-2443, jberk@sonoma-county.org Professor Bruce Mitteldorf - brumit@sonic.net ; tel. 707-887-9542
SCHEDULE:	Spring 2019, Mondays, 4:00-6:00 pm, Room #104
UNITS:	1 or 2 units (or auditors - 0)
COURSE TYPE:	Elective
PREREQUISITES:	Concurrent enrollment in fourth-year required classes.
COREQUISITES:	None
TEXTS AND MATERIALS: (Identification of any texts, materials and references used throughout the course.)	<u>All Required:</u> <i>Gilbert Law Summaries California Bar Performance Test Skills 5th Edition 1994:</i> Honigsberg (This must be purchased in the Empire College Bookstore) –contained on Thumb drive along with practice exams <i>Practice Exams, other past Bar Exam data (no texts)</i> “thumb drive” with copies of prior Bar Exam essay and PT questions, 2005 to 2011, for personal downloading, available for purchase at the Empire College Bookstore. <i>Strategies & Tactics for the MBE (Multistate Bar Exam), 6th Edition</i> , by Steven L. Emanuel, Published: 05/23/2016, ISBN:9781454873129
COURSE DESCRIPTION:	This one-semester survey course, taught by two professors, combines all of the significant elements of three previous elective courses, incorporating Legal Skills (the Performance Test section), Analysis and Insights on the California Bar Exam (the “straight” Essay Questions section), and MBE Exam Preparation (the MBE section.)
COURSE OBJECTIVES / ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES:	Assist students in developing skills required to pass the CA Bar Examination by taking past exams essay questions, receiving instruction on Bar Exam question analyses and grading procedures, and enhancing the student’s writing and analytical skills.
FORMAT OVERVIEW / METHOD OF INSTRUCTION	First portion, Prof. Berk - Students will take four past Performance Exams (90 minutes or 3 hours each) outside of class, and will then discuss their answers in class. Students will also take past Bar Exams essay questions and will discuss answers in class. In-class instruction will include detailed dissection of actual past Bar Exam essay questions. Second Portion, Prof. Mitteldorf - Students will take MBE practice exams in and outside of class and will discuss and dissect answers in class.
EXAMS:	General Policies: Exams begin promptly at 6 p.m. 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

	<p>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.</p>
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</p>
ATTENDANCE:	<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>Make-up classes will be scheduled on evenings when classes are not usually held or on weekends. Attendance at make-up classes, while strongly encouraged, is not required. Class sessions which are delayed or canceled because of holidays or policy of Empire College School of Law, and which are re-scheduled for a different date are considered regularly scheduled class sessions, not make-up classes. A student who has exceeded the absence limits outlined will be automatically dropped from the course. A student who is dropped from a course will be required to repeat the course at its next offering in order to meet graduation requirements.</p>
ASSIGNMENTS:	Weekly assignment
	Make-up date and assignment will be communicated when class meets.
Week 1: January 7, 2019	Professor Berk Gilberts – Chapters I - III
Week 2: January 14, 2019	Berk – Exam A** **Exams will be taken outside of class and will be submitted by email no later than Sunday at 5:00PM before the scheduled class. Exams are either 3 hours or 90 minutes. Gilberts – Chapter IV
Week 3: January 21, 2019 (Yes, Empire is open this date)	Berk – Exam B** Gilberts – Chapter V

Week 4: January 28, 2019	Berk – Bar Exam Sample** Gilberts – Chapter VI
Week 5: February 4, 2019	Berk – July 2017 Exam**
Week 6: February 11, 2019	Berk – February 2018 Exam** (pages 8-23 contain performance test and library) and Introduction to, and techniques for, approaching essay exams.
Week 7: February 18, 2019 –President’s holiday. - Empire Closed – no class session this day	Berk – Practicing essay exams at home and email to Professor and he will email back with comments
Week 8 February 25, 2019	Mitteldorf – Assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From MBE text, take the first 50 questions of “Practice MBE—A.M. Exam” under timed conditions (1.5 hours, uninterrupted). Do not allow yourself extra time. Do not look at or refer to answers until you have completed all 50 questions. Use answer sheet provided in text, or photocopy thereof; I strongly recommend that you do not write in text. • Grade your own exam with the Answer Key provided in text; bring your numerical score to class on an otherwise blank piece of paper. • Note: Your score on this practice exam will not affect your course grade. Rather, students’ scores will be used, anonymously, as a baseline assessment of MBE readiness. Class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction; goals; the peculiar cruelty of MBEs; good and bad news about MBEs; how to make MBEs work in your favor. • Discussion and practice of Torts MBEs.
Week 9: March 4, 2019	Mitteldorf – Assignment Read text’s introductory materials and introductory sections of <i>Contracts</i> and <i>Torts</i> chapters; take at least 20 Contracts MBEs and 20 Torts MBEs from text. Class: Discussion and practice of Contracts MBEs.
Week 10: March 11, 2019	Mitteldorf Assignment Read introductory section of <i>Criminal Law and Procedure</i> chapter; take and review answers to at least 20 MBEs from this chapter. Class: Discussion and practice of Criminal Law and Procedure MBEs.
Week 11: March 18, 2019	Mitteldorf Assignment Read introductory section of <i>Constitutional Law</i> chapter; take and review answers to at least 20 MBEs from this chapter. Class: Discussion and practice of Constitutional Law MBEs.
Week 12: March 25, 2019	Mitteldorf Assignment Read introductory section of <i>Real Property</i> chapter; take and review answers to at least 20 <i>Real Property</i> MBEs. Class: Discussion and practice of Real Property MBEs.

Week 13: April 1, 2019	Mitteldorf Assignment Read introductory section of <i>Evidence</i> chapter; take and review answers to at least 20 <i>Evidence</i> MBEs. <i>Class:</i> Discussion and practice of <i>Evidence</i> MBEs.
Week 14: April 8, 2019	Mitteldorf Assignment Read introductory section of <i>Civil Procedure</i> chapter; take and review answers to at least 20 <i>Civil Procedure</i> MBEs. <i>Class:</i> Discussion and practice of <i>Civil Procedure</i> MBEs.
Week 15: Exam: due to law school office by 6pm on Thurs. 4/25/19 (Exam period runs 4/15 – 4/25/19)	Mitteldorf: From text, take 50 “Practice MBE—P.M. Exam” (50 Questions) under timed conditions (1.5 hours, uninterrupted). Grade your answers and turn in to the law school office. Due by last Date of exam period at 6pm.

**Exams will be taken outside of class and will be submitted by email no later than Sunday at 5:00PM before the scheduled class. Exams are either 3 hours or 90 minutes.

Syllabus subject to change.