Course Objective

To provide an overview of how civil litigation progresses in the United States judicial system, and gain insight about the writing involved in litigation.

Class Policy

- Please keep up with all reading and assignments.
- Please do not miss any class, and please come to class on time.
- Submit your assignment by emailing the assignment to me before each class.
- Please make sure to periodically check the Canvas page.

Course Schedule (Tentative)

Note: while we will do our best to keep this schedule, the progress of the course may change depending on the circumstances. Please do not rely entirely on this schedule; refer instead to the latest announcements at Canvas.

August 29, 2016
- Introduction
- The course objectives
- Civil litigation in the United States

  - Assignment
    o Read the complaint
    o Write a bullet-point summary of the complaint

September 5, 2016
- Labor Day: No Classes

September 12, 2016
- Basics of American style legal writing
- Structure of American style legal writing
- Reading the complaint
- Assignment
  o Read selected statutes on securities law
  o Read selected case law regarding motion to dismiss

September 19, 2016
- Motion to dismiss standard
- Analyzing the complaint and the law
- Designing the motion to dismiss

- Assignment
  o Prepare squibs for case precedents.

September 26, 2016
- The case index system
- Analyzing the case law

- Assignment: none.

October 3, 2016
- Library tour
- Lexis training

- Assignment
  o Research for at least three more securities law cases, and prepare a case squib for each case.

October 11, 2016
- Class is on **Tuesday** due to Columbus Day on October 10, 2016.
- Analyzing the case law to build the theory of the case

- Assignment
  o Review the prospectus and create a summary of helpful points.

October 17, 2016
- Synthesizing the fact and the law: building an argument
- Outlining the motion to dismiss

- Assignment
  o Outline the memorandum in support of the motion to dismiss and draft the preliminary statement
October 24, 2016
- Bluebook system of citation
- Drafting the statement of facts

- Assignment
  o Draft the statement of facts
  o Research for additional helpful cases

October 31, 2016
- Getting comfortable with the body of the law
- Drafting arguments

- Assignment
  o Draft the argument and the conclusion
  o Finalize the first draft

November 7, 2016
- Polishing the draft
- Building the strongest brief possible

- Assignment
  o Prepare drafts for individual conferences

November 14-21, 2016
- Individual Conferences