Georgetown University Law Center
US Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing (LAWG-844-17)
Spring 2016
Syllabus

Professor Megan E. Vetula
Email: [redacted]
Office Hours: I do not have an office on campus but can arrange to meet with students in person or hold telephone conferences by appointment. Please email me and allow 24 hours for a response.
Day and Time: Mondays 5:45 pm-7:45 pm
Room Assignment: Williams L520AB
Attendance: Attendance is imperative due to the nature of the course. Should you have an emergency and need to miss a class session, please email me before the class. More than 1 absence may result in failure of the class at my discretion.
Grading: Honors pass/fail
Exam: None. Your final paper, due on the last day of class, will form the basis for your grade (along with attendance).
TWEN Site: Please join the TWEN site for the course by going to www.law.georgetown.edu/twen. I will use this site to post course materials, receive your assignments, send emails to the class, etc.

Topics and Assignments for Each Class (tentative—to be revised as needed)

WEEK 1 Monday, January 25

Topics: Introduction to the U.S. Legal System; Relationship between Federal and State Law

Prior to class, read:

- U.S. Constitution, Article III

WEEK 2 Monday, February 1

Topics: Legal English vs. Legal Discourse; Common Law Argumentation
Prior to class, read:

- 18 C.F.R. § 1.b
- SEC Rule 10b-5

WEEK 3  Monday, February 8

Topics: Scholarly Discourse about the Law

Prior to class, read:


Monday, February 15—NO CLASS—HOLIDAY

Monday, February 22—NO CLASS—Professor traveling

WEEK 4  Monday, February 29

Topics: Making Legal Arguments Using Prior Cases as Support

Prior to class, read:

- BP America Inc., et al., 144 FERC ¶ 61,100 (2013)
- Barclays Bank PLC, et al., 144 FERC ¶ 61,041 (2013)
- Brian Hunter, 135 FERC ¶ 61,054 (2011)

Monday, March 7—NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

WEEK 5  Monday, March 14

Research Presentation

WEEK 6  Monday, March 21

Topics: Writing Process discussion, including plagiarism policy; Understanding the Law: Writing the Legal Summary

Prior to class, read:
• Plagiarism policy

Assignment for Next Class: Write a short summary of the law as it applies to your client’s case and post it to the Assignment Drop Box by noon on Friday, March 25

WEEK 7 Monday, March 28
Topics: Organizing your Arguments: Writing a First Draft

Assignment for Next Week: Write a First Draft of your Legal Memorandum and post it to the Assignment Drop Box by 5 pm on Friday, April 1

WEEK 8 Monday, April 4
Topics: No Class. Individual Conferences

WEEK 9 Monday, April 11
Topics: Building a Reader-Based Document
Assignment Due Today: Please bring a hard copy of your First Draft to class with you on April 18
Assignment for Next Week: Oral Presentations

WEEK 10 Monday, April 18
Topics: Making Concise Oral Arguments: Presenting your Analysis
Assignment Due Today: Oral Presentations
Assignment for Next Week: Re-Write your First Draft and post your Final Draft to the Assignment Drop Box by 9 PM on Monday, April 24
Please Bring a Hard Copy of your Final Draft to Class with you on April 25

WEEK 11 Monday, April 25
Topics: Final Thoughts