

Legal Internship
POLI 438, 401 Spring 2012

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To download a PDF copy of this syllabus [click here](#).

Introduction and Objective

The purposes of this course are to complement your internship fieldwork and to examine the role of the legal profession in society. In addition, we will develop and improve our legal reasoning and advocacy skills.

Grades

Your final grade will be based on the following formula:

Assignment	POLI 438	POLI 401	Due
Memo	15%		02/21
Argument	20%		05/08
Field Work	20%	80%	
Paper/Brief	35%	20%	05/01
Class Participation	10%		

Memo Assignment: Each student will be required to research and write a 3 page legal memorandum answering a legal question. The assignment will be distributed on the course website. Students will turn in their memos on Feb. 21. You will have two weeks to revise the memo after it is returned to you with my comments. You will be graded on the final version of the memo.

Paper Assignment: Students must write a 9-11 page legal brief arguing their case in the moot court assignment. The assignment and rules will be available from the course website.

These assignments are designed to meet UMBC's Writing Intensive criteria:

- Effective writing for purposes of critical inquiry and/or the presentation of scholarly information.
- Writing used as a tool for learning, with ample opportunity provided for drafting, revising, and/or re-writing of papers once feedback is given. Peer review of papers/presentations may be included in the feedback process, but may not constitute the sole form of feedback.
- Submission of a minimum total of 3000-3750 words (12-15 standard pages) of graded finished written assignments. Typically, these assignments should take the form of two or more papers outside of class; if a single

term project is used, there must be an opportunity for at least one guided feedback stage and revision.

- Student evaluation on the basis of effective writing as well as content.
- Class time dedicated to discussing assignment goals, expectations, criteria for evaluation, and principles for effective writing.

Argument Assignment: In addition, all students must prepare a moot court argument. Details on this assignment is available on the course web site.

Class participation: You will be graded on attendance in class and the quality of class contribution. You are required to read current news stories and cases posted on the website and be prepared to discuss them in class.

If a student deviates from UMBC's policies on academic honesty, he or she may receive a failing grade for the assignment, or for the course.

Please see: <http://www.umbc.edu/integrity/students.html>.

Papers and memos must be turned in via Turnitin.com.

Below is a tentative course plan. I reserve the right to amend the course plan at any time but I will do my best to provide you with adequate notice of any material changes.

Course Plan

Date	Topic	Readings
01/31	Intro to Legal Research & Writing	Memo Assignment Distributed
02/07	Legal Reasoning, Research & Writing	Precedent and Reasoning (PDF) “ How to Write A Memorandum: From a Curmudgeon ” (PDF).
02/14	Legal Reasoning, Research & Writing	Precedent and Reasoning 2 (PDF)
02/21	Representation	Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) Rompilla v. Beard (2005) (Web) “ Defendants Squeezed by Georgia’s Tight Budget, ” By Adam Liptak Memos Due

02/28	NO CLASS	<p>Attend: <i>Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Supreme Court</i> Argument (Optional)</p> <p>Guide to Visiting the Supreme Court</p> <p>Readings are mandatory: “Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum: Another Round in the Fight Over Corporate Liability Under the Alien Tort Statute” By Chimène I. Keitner</p> <p>“Supreme Court To Rule On Corporate Personhood For Crimes Against Humanity,” by Mike Sacks (HuffPost)</p>
03/06	Legal Education - Reality Check	<p>“One L,” by Scott Turow (Excerpt PDF)</p> <p>“Is Law School a Losing Game?” By David Segal</p>
03/13	Legal Education - Pitfalls to Avoid	<p>“Does Legal Education have Undermining Effects on Law Students?” by Kennon M. Sheldon and Lawrence S. Krieger.</p> <p>“In Law Schools, Grades Go Up, Just Like That,” By Catherine Rampell</p>
03/20	SPRING BREAK	
03/27	The Profession	<p>The Bar (PDF)</p> <p>Mallard v. US District Court (1989)</p> <p>DOL v. Triplett (1990)</p>
04/03	NO CLASS	Watch: <i>A Civil Action</i> (Film)
04/10	The Profession	<p>The Good That Lawyers Do, by Kathleen M. Sullivan</p> <p>Equal Justice, by Deborah L. Rhode</p> <p>In Pursuit of the Public Good, by Ruth Bader Ginsburg</p>
04/17	The Reach of the Law	<p>Filartiga v. Pena-Irala (1980)</p> <p>Human Rights Entrepreneurs (2008)</p>

04/24	The Reach of the Law	Mujica v. Occidental (2005) El Masri v. Tenet (2007) “The Torture Lawyers,” NYT (2009)
05/01	Oral Advocacy	Hamdan v. Rumsfeld Oral Argument First Argument 1 , by Walter Dellinger First Argument 2 , by J. Thomas Sullivan
05/08	Arguments	