

Legal Analysis Strategies
Day & Evening Sections
Prof. Scott Johns
 Spring 2021

Dear LAS Students:

Welcome to Legal Analysis Strategies!

I'm excited that you have joined this course. In preparation for our first class on Thursday, January 14, 2021, here are a few preliminary details to include the logistics, zoom links and passwords (based on the two different sections), and the initial class assignment (estimate one hour preparation). The Canvas platform will be available on the first day of class. Note: This course will be delivered entirely online.

Please let me know if you have any questions at all, and I look forward to "seeing" you on Thursday!

Sincerely,

Prof. Scott Johns
 Prof. of the Practice of Law
 Director, DU Bar Passage Program
 Contributing Editor, the Law School Academic Support Blog
 sjohns@law.du.edu

Credit Hours	3 credits
Contact Information	Office phone: 303.871.6763 Email address: sjohns@law.du.edu Bio: https://www.law.du.edu/about/people/scott-johns Best way to contact me: Email Day Class Only: Zoom Link: https://udenver.zoom.us/j/83484580882 Password = ready2fly Evening Class Only: Zoom Link: https://udenver.zoom.us/j/84005742652 Password = ready2rock
Office Hours	Tuesday & Thursdays: 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm; Or by appointment, with at least 24 hours advanced email request. Zoom Link for Office Hours & Chats Only: https://udenver.zoom.us/j/8904423599 Password = acethebar
Course Delivery Format	This J.D. course will use both synchronous and asynchronous formats. Synchronous Day Class Schedule: Tuesday & Thursday; 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm Synchronous Evening Class Schedule: Tuesday & Thursday; 7:30 pm - 8:45pm All content will be delivered through DU's Canvas learning management system - https://canvas.du.edu/
Time Zone	This course will use Mountain Time Zone for all scheduled due dates.
IT Help	DU IT support: M - Th 8am - 10pm; Fri 8am 6pm - 303-871-4700 Canvas password reset - 303-871-4700 Canvas 24/7 support - 855-712-9770 Issues with law school email contact help@law.du.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Legal Analysis Strategies (LAS). This course provides students in their last semester of law school with instruction, practice, and feedback in legal analysis, problem-solving, and communication skills by simulating problems that students will encounter on the bar exam and as lawyers. This course will focus on core bar exam subjects (Contracts/UCC Sales, Constitutional Law, and Evidence), using materials in all three bar examination formats - essays, legal writing performance tests, and MBE multiple-choice questions. In addition, students will

review Criminal Law and Torts to provide the necessary backdrop for our work in Evidence law. This course is not a substitute for a commercial bar review course. Rather, the purpose of LAS is to enhance your learning, analytical, and communication abilities within a several core substantive areas to provide a strong foundation for your subsequent bar exam preparations.

COURSE FOUNDATIONAL PRECEPT: LEARNING TO LEARN

Course methods are based on educational psychology to include the science and sociology of learning. For success on the bar exam and in the practice of law, you need to know how to teach yourself the law and legal problem-solving. Although commercial bar review companies provide lectures, substantive materials, and practice problems, bar review courses are, in reality, independent learning projects (much like the practice of law, too). Consequently, this course teaches you how to succeed by learning how to learn the law and how to apply the law as problem-solving attorneys. In the literature, these principles are often referred as “self-regulated learning,” “metacognition,” and “academic tenacity” practices. Your value as an attorney depends on your ability to teach yourself on behalf of your clients to handle their legal matters. Those who master this ability will thrive on the bar exam and in the practice of law.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, learners should:

- Distinguish between and practice the different testing components of the bar exam
- Comprehend the critical stages and recognize resources for bar exam preparation
- Assess their own learning and apply concepts of learning science (e.g. metacognition) to maximize learning
- Acquire and demonstrate attorney competence in learning core substantive bar exam topics
- Demonstrate attorney competence in all components of the bar exam - performance tests, bar essays, and multiple-choice MBE problem-solving techniques

REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Required:

1. All students will be provided with *free* Themis Bar Review bar exam lecture videos, outlines, assessments, and MBE questions customized for LAS. Instructions for accessing these materials will be made available to you.
2. A free PDF text-pamphlet, Robbins, Allie, *Passing the Bar: A Quick Reference Guide for Today's Law Students (2ed)*, available at: <https://www.cali.org/books/passing-the-bar-guide>

Optional:

1. *Strategies and Tactics for the MBE: 7th Edition* (readily available on the internet) (optional source for extra MBE problems).

Initial Class Assignment:

- Research your state bar exam content and format for cut scores for your jurisdiction, subjects tested, the formats, and the dates of your bar exam
- Search through the [NCBE Exam website](https://www.ncbex.org/exams/ube/) to discover NCBE resources, available at: <https://www.ncbex.org/exams/ube/>
- Read Section entitled “Bar Exam Overview,” *Passing the Bar*, Chapters 4-8, pages 12-22, available free at: <https://www.cali.org/books/passing-the-bar-guide>
- Skim through the [July 2020 written bar exam](https://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/barexaminers/July2020RepresentativePassingAnswers.pdf) (MEE’s and MPT’s), identifying the two types of MPT legal writing projects (and subject matter) and looking through the essays and actual passing answers, available at: <https://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/barexaminers/July2020RepresentativePassingAnswers.pdf>