

**Legal Analysis and Drafting: The Bar Exam
Spring 2011
University of Cincinnati College of Law
Joel Chanvisanuruk**

COURSE SUMMARY & SYLLABUS

Scheduled classes: Fridays, 1:30 – 3:30, Room 118

Professor:

Joel Chanvisanuruk
201-I College of Law
Phone: (513) 556-3531; (513) 307-6097 (cell)
E-mail: chanvijm@ucmail.uc.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays, 10:00 – 12:00, *except during individual meeting weeks*

Required texts:

Riebe and Schwartz, PASS THE BAR! (Carolina Academic Press 2006)

Emanuel, BOOTCAMP FOR THE MBE CONTRACTS (Aspen, 2010)

Emanuel, BOOTCAMP FOR THE MBE TORTS (Aspen, 2010)

Rigos, RIGOS BAR REVIEW SERIES MULTISTATE PERFORMANCE TEST REVIEW
(Second Edition) (Aspen, 2010)

Note: I have negotiated a reduced purchase price for the three Aspen texts. To receive this discount students must purchase these texts from the UC or Dubois bookstore.

Additional resources:

As part of the negotiations with Aspen publishers, students who purchase these texts from the UC or Dubois bookstores will have access to on-line streaming lectures reviewing the subjects of Torts and Contracts. Details on accessing these lectures will be provided in class.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will have learned and practiced strategies for drafting responses to bar exam essays and performance tests.

This course is not a replacement for a commercial bar preparation course, and is insufficient on its own as preparation for any state's bar exam.

Course Expectations and Structure:

My expectations of students enrolled in this course are based on the assumptions that you will be (1) taking and (2) passing a bar examination. I expect students enrolled in this course to complete assigned reading and study assignments, to engage in self-assessment of their work and learning style and to put forth a good faith effort in the execution of in-class written and group assignments.

This course focuses on the written components of bar exams: essays and performance tests. Students will complete eleven previously administered Torts and Contracts essay questions and three performance tests under timed conditions. Student-drafted responses to these questions will be self-reviewed, peer reviewed or reviewed by the professor. **Students will schedule and attend three mandatory individual meetings with the professor.** In order to facilitate peer review, students will form self-selected peer groups of 3-4 students. All peer review exercises will occur amongst group members.

Outside of class students will review and study the substantive law of Torts and Contracts. As this is a review of material for which students have previously received College of Law credit, student time committed to this review is not considered part of the two credits earned in this course.

Students will have five quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will take place during the first ten minutes of class and will cover the material assigned for study that week. To more closely replicate the recall necessary for successful bar exam essay drafting, quizzes will not be multiple choice but rather a series of prompts requiring definitions or explanations of points of law (*e.g.* Explain the “Mailbox Rule;” List and define the defenses to intentional torts”). Quizzes will receive a grade of Check-plus, Check, or Check-minus.

Grading:

This is a 2-credit course graded on a “High Pass, Pass, Low Pass, Fail” basis. In addition to attending scheduled classes, you are also required to attend three individual meetings with your professor to review and receive feedback on your practice questions.

In order to attain a grade of “Pass” students must demonstrate a good faith effort in the completion of in-class written and group exercises, attend 80% of the scheduled classes, and attend three mandatory individual meetings with the professor.

Students who fail to demonstrate a good faith effort in the completion of in-class written and group exercises, attend fewer than 80% of the scheduled classes or fail to schedule and attend three mandatory individual meetings with the professor will receive a “Low Pass” or “Fail.” Failure to complete an assigned essay or MPT will

result in a “Fail.” Late writing assignments will not be accepted, but counted as a non-submission, resulting in a course “Fail.”

In order to attain a grade of “High Pass” students must be eligible for a grade of “Pass” (*supra*) and have scored at least three check-pluses and no check-minuses on the five quizzes.

Syllabus

Items listed in the left column are to be completed before class. Items listed in the right column will be completed during class.

Note: The information on this syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible for all revisions announced in class.

January 21	
<p>Everyone: <i>Reibe</i> Chapters 1, 3 and 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Plus</i></p> <p>If you have decided which state’s bar exam to take: read Chapter 7 and complete exercise 7-1</p> <p>If you have yet to decide which state’s bar exam to take: read Chapter 6 and complete exercise 6-2</p>	<p>Course overview and expectations</p> <p>Introduction to essay drafting and analysis for the bar exam.</p> <p>Drafting Exercise</p> <p>(Re)Learning Law from Outlines</p> <p>Self-created Study Aids</p> <p>Forming Peer Groups</p>
January 28	
<p>E-mail professor peer group rosters and names by COB 1/26</p> <p><i>Riebe</i> Chapters 9 – 11, 13</p> <p>Complete exercises 13-1, 13-3 (using your Torts materials)</p> <p>Study Torts Chapters 1-4</p> <p>Develop and bring to class a self-created study aid for material covered in Torts Chapters 1-4</p>	<p>Peer group share of Torts study aids</p> <p>Quiz #1: Torts Chapters 1-4</p> <p>Complete Torts Essay 1 and self-assessment cover sheet.</p> <p>Receive self-grading sheet for Torts Essay 1</p>

February 4

Reibe Chapter 15

Review Torts Chapters 1-4

Study Contracts Chapters 1-2

Develop and bring to class a study aid for material covered in Contracts Chapters 1-2

Group share of Contracts study aids

Quiz #2: Contracts Chapters 1-2

Review essay drafting and analysis

Complete Torts Essay 2 and Contracts Essay 1.

Receive response outline for Torts Essay 2 and Contracts Essay 1

February 11

In lieu of class, first required Individual Meeting with professor to review Torts Essay 2 this week. Scheduling details will be announced in advance. **All students are required to rewrite their answers to Torts Essay 2 and Contracts Essay 1, due at the beginning of class February 18th.**

February 18

Review Contracts Chapters 1-2

Study Contracts Chapters 3-4

Study Torts Chapters 5-8

Rewrite answers to Torts Essay 2 and Contracts Essay 1 (due at the beginning of class 2/18)

Quiz #3: Contracts Chapters 3-4; Torts Chapters 5-8

Review of common drafting and analysis errors

Strategies for gaining points when you can't recall the law

Complete Torts Essay 3 and Contracts Essay 2.

February 25

Review Contracts Chapters 3-4, Torts Chapters 5-8

Study Torts Chapters 9-12

Bring two copies of Torts Essay 3 and Contracts Essay 2 to class

Quiz #4: Torts Chapters 9-12

Peer review of Torts Essay 3 and Contracts Essay 2

Complete Torts Essay 4 and Contracts Essay 3

March 4	
Review Torts Chapters 9-12 Study Contracts Chapters 5-9 <i>Riebe</i> Chapters 17, 18 Bring two copies of Torts Essay 4 and Contracts Essay 3 to class	Mid-semester check-in Receive Reviewed rewrites of Torts Essay 2 and Contracts Essay 1 Peer Review Torts Essay 4 and Contracts Essay 3 Complete Torts Essay 5 and Contracts Essay 4 Submit Contracts Essay 4 for Professor Review Receive self-grading rubric for Torts Essay 5
March 11	
Review Contracts Chapters 5-9 Study Torts Chapters 13-18, Contracts 10-14 <i>Rigos</i> Text 1-18	Quiz #5: Torts Chapters 13-18, Contracts Chapters 10-14 Introduction to the MPT & MPT Persuasive Briefs Tasks Practice MPT Exercise Complete Torts Essay 6 and Contracts Essay 5 Submit Torts Essay 6 and Contracts Essay 5 for professor review
March 18	
In lieu of class, second required Individual Meeting with professor to review Torts Essay 6 and Contracts Essay 5 during the week of March 14th. Scheduling details will be announced in advance.	
April 1	
<i>Riebe</i> Chapter 16 <i>Rigos</i> Text 2-19 through 2-59 Complete MPT <i>People v. Wils</i> (Strictly limit yourself to 2 hours to complete this MPT, without interruption) Submit to Professor by COB 3/18	Review of MPT <i>People v. Wils</i> Introduction to MPT Objective Memoranda Tasks Practice MPT Exercise

April 8

Complete MPT *In Re Ryan Cox* (Strictly limit yourself to 2 hours to complete this MPT, without interruption)
Bring two written copies to class for 4/18

Rigos , Text 3-135 through 3-172

Complete MPT *In Re Snow King Mountain Resort* (1.5 hours) Submit for Professor review.

April 15

In lieu of class, third required Individual Meeting with professor the week of April 11th to review MPT *In Re Snow King Mountain Resort*. Scheduling details will be announced in advance.

April 22

Riebe Chapters 17-20

Planning your Bar Study

Course Evaluations