

**SCHOLARLY WRITING  
LAW 510/R05  
Fall 2022**

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**CLASS SCHEDULE:** Select Wednesdays, 6:05 pm to 8:05 pm via Zoom (see below)

**STANDING ZOOM LINK:** <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/98129527425>

**OFFICE HOURS:** Immediately following class or by appointment (both in-person and via Zoom). I am also available via email.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course is a 2 credit CR/NC writing course. This semester you will focus on writing for an academic journal. This requires a somewhat different skill set than writing a brief or memo for a client. The final product of this course will be an original comment or case note suitable for publication either in your ASLS journal or elsewhere.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- Eugene Volokh, *ACADEMIC LEGAL WRITING: LAW REVIEW ARTICLES, STUDENT NOTES, SEMINAR PAPERS, AND GETTING ON LAW REVIEW* (5th ed.)
- Columbia Law Review et al., *THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION* (20th/21st)

**OTHER MATERIALS:** The TWEN page for this class contains important resources to assist you in conducting research and bluebooking. I have also tagged potentially useful CALI exercises on topics like researching and using various types of primary and secondary authority that could save you a lot of time if you elect to spend the 30 or so minutes using an exercise to learn a new area of research, but it is entirely up to you whether you choose to use the exercises. Because you may choose to write on a broad assortment of topics, there may be additional useful specialized topics to explore that are not flagged. I will be happy to help you explore further topics should you find them useful.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Identify a proper, manageable topic for an academic article
- Identify proper authority supporting and opposing each proposition stated in the article
- Create a background section that gives context
- Propound a thesis in the style of an academic article and defend that thesis
- Apply the rules of legal citation for academic works

**EMAIL COMMUNICATION:** Students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. I may not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address.

**TWEN:** It is mandatory that you register for the class TWEN page. All class slides, handouts and announcements will be distributed or posted through TWEN.

**BASIS OF EVALUATION & ASSESSMENTS:**

- Students will either receive credit (CR) or no credit (NC) in this class.
- Under Academic Regulation (“AR”) 4-5, “CR indicates work equivalent to a C or better on the A+\* through F scale,” and “[t]he grade of NC indicates work that falls below the equivalent of a C on the A+\* through F scale and does not qualify for credit towards the Juris Doctor degree.” Moreover, a grade of NC will result in two exclusion points pursuant to AR 3-6.
- To determine whether a student will receive credit for the course, I’ll first assign each final paper a letter grade from A through F, depending on the student’s understanding of the various organizational, structural, stylistic, and analytical concepts that are the substance of the course. Grading is objective, i.e. not on a curve.
- I will deduct one-third of a letter grade if the final paper does not conform to the formatting requirements set forth below. Furthermore, per AR 4-4.1(b)(iii), I will deduct a full letter grade for each 24-hour period that the paper is submitted beyond the deadline. I reserve the right to add one-third of a letter grade for truly exceptional participation in class meetings.
- To receive CR, you must in addition complete all assignments and fulfill the attendance requirements set forth below.

**COURSE STRUCTURE, RULES & EXPECTATIONS:**

- This course is scheduled as a remote course.
- Please come to each class having completed all assigned readings.
- Bring any assigned samples of your own work for discussion.
- Students are expected to be constructive, courteous, and respectful of diverse opinions during classroom discussions.
- It is fine to disagree with, or critique ideas, but personal/ad hominem attacks are not acceptable.

**ATTENDANCE:** Regular and punctual attendance are required to earn academic credit. Attendance requirements for academic credit will follow the policies set forth in Academic Regulation 4-1. Should circumstances occur where you anticipate the possibility of missing a substantial number of class sessions (e.g. a serious illness), you should immediately contact the Associate Dean for Administration and Student Affairs. There is no substituted work available for this course (see AR 4-1.2). If you are not present for at least 75 percent of a session of the course, you will be considered absent from that session (AR 4-1.1).

**FINAL PAPER FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:** Your final paper should be submitted as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) to my email account. The due date will be **Sunday, January 8, 2022 (by 10pm EST)**. The paper should be double-spaced and left-justified in 12-point Arial font with 1" margins (0.5" margins for header and footer). The only exception is block quotations, which should be single-spaced in 12-point Arial, indented 0.5" on each side. The title should be in all caps. Do not include an abstract. The paper should be between 30 and 45 pages long. Footnotes should be single-spaced in 10-point Arial; block quotations should again be indented 0.5" on each side. All footnotes must conform to the Bluebook (20th/21st eds.) for academic works, including the requirements of the Tables. Every page should have a page number centered at the bottom in 12-point Arial. Every page should have a header with your last name centered at the top in 12-point Arial.

**CLASS USE OF STUDENT MATERIALS:** Any written work you submit may be used as a teaching tool for discussion with the entire class or with future classes. Any identifying information will be removed to protect student confidentiality.

**DUAL SOVEREIGNTY:** I have no authority over individual journals' membership determinations. Please direct all questions about journal operations to your editorial board and/or faculty adviser. Likewise, the journals' editorial boards and faculty advisers have no authority over my evaluations of your work for this course.

**CLASS RECORDINGS PROHIBITED:** Pursuant to Academic Regulation 4-2.2, no portion of a class session or an examination may be preserved by means of a recording device such as an audio recording device or camera. Any exceptions to this policy must be expressly permitted in writing by me. It is possible that at some point I may have to record a course session for use by students at the express direction from Associate Dean, Student Academic Affairs to accommodate a student for any required or necessary absences.

**COVID HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:** Please refer to the most up-to-date University policies [here](#).

**PAPER EXTENSIONS:** Except for instances described in AR 4-4.1(b)(ii), faculty may not grant deadline extensions for final papers (i.e. any written assignment that accounts for 50% or more of the final course grade); all authority in this matter is delegated to the Associate Dean, Student Academic Affairs. Excuses and requests for a deadline extension must be presented, with appropriate documentation, to the Associate Dean, Student Academic Affairs. Except in emergencies, deadline extensions must be sought in advance of the scheduled deadline. Note that there are steep deductions in grades required for every day past the scheduled deadline a paper is turned in.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** It is expected that students adhere to the Scalia Law School Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing. This includes a student obligation to never represent the work of another as their own, and to never provide or accept unauthorized assistance on any school related assignment. The Honor Code is available here: <https://sls.gmu.edu/honor/>.

**CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATIONS:** Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disabilities Registration Process. Faculty may not receive or respond to requests for an accommodation. All requests must be handled by the office of Disability Services. You may contact Disability Services directly via email at [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu) or phone at (703) 993-2474. If you have any questions about how in-class or testing accommodations are implemented at the law school, please contact the Assistant Dean, Student Academic Affairs for more information.

**ADDITIONAL SCHOOL POLICIES AND RESOURCES:**

**STUDENT HONOR CODE - [Click Here](#)**

**ACADEMIC REGULATIONS - [Click Here](#)**

**UNIVERSITY LIFE:** University Life provides student support resources such as Counseling and Psychological Services (<https://caps.gmu.edu/>), Student Health Services (<https://shs.gmu.edu/>), and the Student Support and Advocacy Center (<https://ssac.gmu.edu/>). For more information about University Life on the Arlington Campus, please visit: <https://ularlington.gmu.edu/>

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** Following is the tentative schedule of assignments. Adjustments may be made as necessary during the course of the semester. Please make sure you are signed up to receive updates via TWEN. Internal deadlines refer to all five journals (you should contact them for any questions in that matter).

**GROUP ASSIGNMENTS (BY FIRST LETTER OF LAST NAME)**

**Group A:** A – I      **Group B:** J – Z

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings / Assignment</u>	<u>Class Meeting Activity</u>
1	August 24	Ch 1  Please come to the first class with three possible ideas you might want to write about and be ready to discuss why.	Introductory Meeting and Choosing a Topic
2	August 31	Ch 2, 9, 19	Research Librarian meeting
SUN	September 4	Internal deadline: Topic Selection	-----

3	September 7	Ch 3, 4, 10	Introduction & Background
4	September 14	NONE	NONE
SUN	September 18	Internal deadline: Preemption Check	-----
5	September 21	NONE	Preliminary Topic Presentation ( <b>Group A</b> )
6	September 28	NONE	Preliminary Topic Presentation ( <b>Group B</b> )
7	October 5	Ch 5, 6, 7, 8	NONE
SUN	October 9	Internal deadline: Outline	-----
8	October 12	Ch 11-16	NONE
9	October 19	NONE	Presentation of ideas/introduction ( <b>Group B</b> )
10	October 26	NONE	Presentation of ideas/introduction ( <b>Group A</b> )
SUN	October 30	Internal deadline: First Draft/Expanded Outline/Expanded Background	-----
11	November 2	Ch 20, Appendix I	NONE
12	November 9	Ch 17, 18	Presentation of paper ( <b>Group A</b> )
13	November 16	Ch 22, 23 (pp. 260-79), 26	Presentation of paper ( <b>Group B</b> )
SUN	December 4	Internal deadline: Second Draft (Complete)	-----
SUN	January 8	Deadline: Final Draft Due (10pm)	-----