

Course Syllabus

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SDO 501: U.S. Law & Legal Analysis

Course and Faculty Information

Course Description: This course introduces students to the U.S. legal system and to legal analysis. Students will be provided the necessary instruction to use legal analysis in both their academic work and professional endeavors, including reading and evaluating case law and statutes. Students will complete extensive written legal analysis exercises.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Instructors:

Sandra Ortland Erickson, Esq.

Jennifer Carstens, Esq.

Monica Gellman, Esq.

Jennifer Ward, Esq., SPHR, SHRM-SCP

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Contact Information for Questions and Individual Meetings: Contact through Canvas course email ("Inbox").

Q&A Meetings via Zoom (OPTIONAL) - Zoom Information found in Module 0:

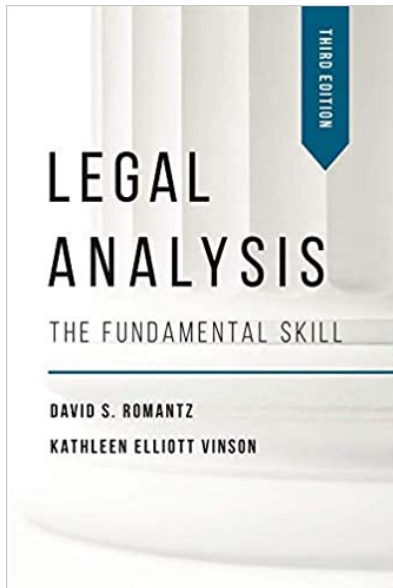
TBD

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the structure of the U.S. court systems.
2. Understand the basic common law legal principles and the hierarchy of legal authority.
3. Analyze and brief case law.
4. Understand the formation of rules involving both common law and statutory law.
5. Construct legal arguments, based on the IRAC process.
6. Employ dispassionate analysis in legal arguments.
7. Explain the legislative process and examine its relationship to administrative law.
8. Describe the criminal legal process, civil litigation process, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms.
9. Understand the role of policy in legal processes, including the legislative process and court opinions.
10. Perform (lots of) legal analysis.

Textbooks

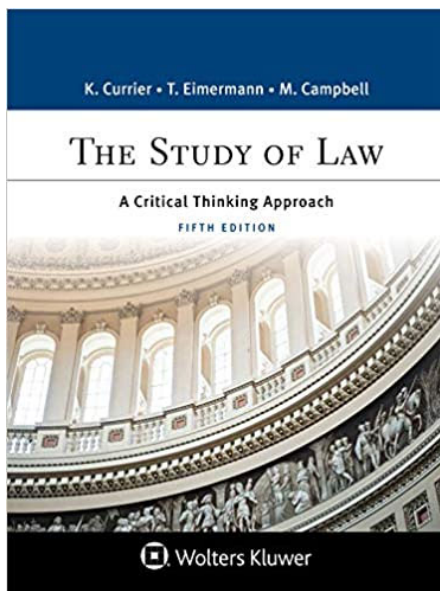


Legal Analysis: The Fundamental Skill , 3rd Edition

by David S. Romantz, Kathleen Elliot Vinson

ISBN-13: 978-1531011970

ISBN-10: 1531011977



The Study of Law: A Critical Thinking Approach (Aspen College), 5th Edition

by Katherine A. Currier, Thomas E. Eimermann

ISBN-13: 978-1454896265

ISBN-10: 1454896264

NOTE: For this semester, you can purchase either the 4th edition or the 5th edition of *The Study of Law* textbook.

Reading List

Please feel free to read ahead of the current module if you feel that you have the bandwidth to do so. The entire course reading list is [available here \(https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/files/58815249?wrap=1\)](https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/files/58815249?wrap=1), but remember that it is subject to change.

Citations

All material quoted or paraphrased in any submission that is not your own original work must be cited.

In-text citations are expected in conjunction with full citations in foot-notes, end-notes, or a Works Cited. Citation format may follow MLA, APA, Bluebook, or a combination of those unless a specific format has been established by your professor.

Citation Resources:

MLA 

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

APA  https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Bluebook <https://libguides.law.asu.edu/legalwriting/citation>

Course Access

Your ASU courses can be accessed by both [my.asu.edu \(http://my.asu.edu\)](http://my.asu.edu) and canvas.asu.edu ; bookmark both in the event that one site is down.

Computer and Technology Requirements

This is a fully online course. To ensure you can access and participate in all course content, please review the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law's [Computer and Technology Requirements \(https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/pages/minimum-computer-skills-and-technology-requirements\)](https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/pages/minimum-computer-skills-and-technology-requirements).

Help

For technical support, use the Help icon in the black global navigation menu in your Canvas course or call the ASU Help Desk at +1-(855) 278-5080. Representatives are available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student Success

To be successful:

- check the course daily
- read announcements
- read and respond to course email messages as needed
- complete assignments by the due dates specified
- communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track

- access **ASU Online Student Resources** (<http://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>)

Introduction to Graduate Academic Support Services Fall 2...



Strategies for Success in Online Courses



Grading

Your grade will be determined based on the following grading schema:

Grade	Percentage
A+	99-100%
A	93-98.99%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%

C+	77-79.99%
C	70-76.99%
D	60-69.99%
E	Below 60%

Submitting Assignments

Word Format Required: Please submit assignments in Word format, as Canvas works best with Word documents. Canvas does **not** read Mac ".pages" documents and creates challenges giving feedback on ".pdf" documents. ASU provides **a free subscription to the Microsoft Office suite of programs** (<https://tech.asu.edu/asu-providing-microsoft-office-365-all-students-faculty-staff>) to all students.

No Email Submissions: All assignments, unless otherwise announced, **MUST** be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email.

Arizona Standard Time: Assignment due dates follow Arizona Standard time. Click the following link to access the **Time Converter** [↗\(http://www.thetimezoneconverter.com/\)](http://www.thetimezoneconverter.com/) to ensure you account for the difference in Time Zones. Note: Arizona does not observe daylight savings time. Arizona is in the Mountain Standard Time Zone (during the entirety of this course, this is 1 hour ahead of Pacific Standard Time and 2 hours behind Eastern Standard Time). Please check that the time on your computer is correct and syncs with Canvas.

Grading Procedure

Grades reflect your performance on assignments and adherence to deadlines. Grades on assignments will be available within 1 week of the due date in the Gradebook, unless otherwise noted. The professors reserve the right to apply a curve at an anytime during the course.

Late or Missed Assignments

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted under specific circumstances and if at least one of the professors is notified prior to the due date. Ten percent will be deducted for each day an assignment is late past the due date, unless one of the professors are notified prior to the due date. However, the late penalty will be capped at half the value of the assignment (e.g., a 10 point assignment can have a maximum deduction of 5 late points). Consequently, it is in your best interest to submit all assignments, even if late. The only exception to this rule is Discussion Board posts. Because Discussion Boards require timely student participation to be effective, Initial or Response Posts not made before or on the last day of a Module will have points deducted for partial posts or zero points for no post.

Missed assignments: Assignments not submitted will receive a zero.

Other Resources regarding ASU Grading:

- ASU Online Course Policies: <https://asuonline-dev.asu.edu/qm-template/CanvasQM/qm-policies.html> (<https://asuonline-dev.asu.edu/qm-template/CanvasQM/qm-policies.html>)
- ASU Grades and Records: <https://students.asu.edu/grades> (<https://students.asu.edu/grades>)

Communicating With the Instructors

Community Forum

This course uses a discussion topic called "Community Forum" for general questions and comments about the course in each Module. Prior to posting a question or comment, check the syllabus, announcements, and existing posts to ensure it's not redundant. You are encouraged to respond to the questions of your classmates.

Email questions of a personal nature to your instructors. You can expect a response within 48 hours.

Email

ASU email is the **official means of communication** (<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm107-03.html>) among students, faculty, and staff. Many of the messages concerning this course will be handled in the Canvas inbox, which should forward to your ASU email by default. Students are expected to check messages in both their ASU email and the Canvas inbox and to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages.

All instructor correspondence will be sent to your Canvas inbox and all correspondence to instructors should be sent through the Canvas inbox.

ASU Online Course Policies

View the **ASU Online Course Policies** (<https://law.asu.edu/online-policy>).

Accessibility Statements

View the **ASU Online Student Accessibility** (<https://asuonline-dev.asu.edu/qm-template/CanvasQM/qm-accessibility.html>) page to review accessibility statements for common tools and resources used in ASU Online courses.

If any other tools are used in this course, links to the accessibility statements will be listed below this sentence.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.

Course Schedule

This course will run on a Monday to Sunday week, with most assignments due on Sunday by 11:59 p.m. (this will be referred to throughout the course as the "End of Module Deadline") and initial discussion board posts and a few other assignments due Thursday by 11:59 p.m. (this will be referred to throughout the course as the "Mid-Module Deadline.")

Module 1:	1/9-1/15
Module 2:	1/16-1/22
Module 3:	1/23-1/29
Module 4:	1/30-2/5
Module 5:	2/6-2/12
Module 6:	2/13-2/19
Module 7:	2/20-2/26
Final Exam:	2/27-2/28

These dates may change at any time.

ASU Writing Centers

ASU Writing Centers offer feedback at any stage of the writing process. Students can schedule an appointment to meet one-on-one with a trained tutor who can help with:

- brainstorming
- planning/outlining
- organizing paragraphs
- integrating and documenting sources
- editing for clarity, correctness, and consistency

...and more!

Be sure to bring a printed or email a digital version of your writing, the assignment instructions, and any source materials to your appointment in order to get the most out of your experience. Please go online, call, or stop by a Writing Center to book your writing appointment today. Please be aware that due to the volume of students using the Writing Center and the fast pace of this course, it is unlikely that you will receive feedback on an assignment prior to its due date. Rather than relying on the Writing Center to assist with individual assignments, you should view the resources as an opportunity to improve your writing overall in the long term.

Learn more about ASU Writing Services and book your appointment by visiting <https://tutoring.asu.edu> (<https://tutoring.asu.edu>) or calling (602) 496-4278.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Thu Jan 12, 2023	 Module 1 Discussion Board - Initial Post - Video (https://canvas.asu.edu/calendar?event_id=889715&include_contexts=course_139375)	11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jan 15, 2023	 <u>Legal Analysis - Chapter 1: Practice Exercises</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749997)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 1 Discussion Board: Introduce Yourself to Your Group! (Initial Post-Video Due Mid-Module; Response Posts Due End of Module)</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750005)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 1 Knowledge Check - Hierarchy of Authority Exercise</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749981)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 1 Knowledge Check - Sources of Law</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749980)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Study Of Law - Chapter 1: Review Questions</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750000)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Study Of Law - Chapter 3: Review Questions</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749973)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Study Of Law - Chapter 4: Review Questions</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749984)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 19, 2023	 <u>Module 1 Assignment: Rules for Lina - Decision Chart</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750013)	due by 11:59pm
	 😊 <u>Extra Credit: Set up your Canvas profile picture</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750012)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 2 Assignment: Rules for Lina Draft Synthesized Rule Post</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/calendar?event_id=889721&include_contexts=course_139375)	11:59pm
	 <u>Module 2 Draft Case Brief Due</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/calendar?event_id=889718&include_contexts=course_139375)	11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jan 22, 2023	 <u>Legal Analysis Chapter 2: Practice Exercises</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749985	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Study Of Law - Chapter 5: Review Questions</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749991	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Study of Law - Chapter 6: Review Questions</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750001	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 2 Assignment - CALI "Case Briefing" Exercise</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750014	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 2 Assignment - CALI "How to Brief a Case" Exercise</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750015	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 2 Assignment: Post Final Case Brief Here - Due End of Module</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750016	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 2 Group Discussion: Rules for Lina - Draft Synthesized Rule and Post to Group Discussion Board (Initial Post due Mid-Module, Response Post due End of Module)</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750003	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 26, 2023	 <u>Module 2: Draft Case Brief on Group Discussion Board (Initial Post = Draft Case Brief due Mid-Module; Reflection Response Post due End of Module)</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750004	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 3 Group Discussion "Rule of Law" - Initial Post Due</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/calendar?event_id=889716&include_contexts=course_139375	12am
	 <u>Module 3 Identify Two Issues in Rules for Lina - Initial Post Due</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/calendar?event_id=889717&include_contexts=course_139375	12am

Date	Details	Due
Sun Jan 29, 2023	 <u>Legal Analysis - Chapter 3: Practice Exercises</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750002)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Legal Analysis - Chapter 4: Practice Exercises</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749998)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 3 - Rule Synthesis Exercise - Justice O'Connor's Family Vacation</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749995)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 3 Assignment: Identify Two Issues in Rules for Lina (Initial Post due Mid-Module, Response Post due End of Module)</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750009)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 3 Knowledge Check - Guidelines for How to Perform Rule Synthesis</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749976)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 3 Knowledge Check - Jurisdiction and Hierarchy of Authority in Action</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749983)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 3 Assignment - Rule Synthesis Exercise</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750017)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 3 CALI: Issue Spotting</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750018)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 2, 2023	 <u>Module 3 Group Discussion (Initial Post Due Mid-Module, Response Post Due End of Module)</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750006)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 4 Group Discussion Board - DRAFT Rules for Lina IRACs</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750010)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Feb 5, 2023	 <u>Legal Analysis Practice Exercises - Rule and Case Synthesis in Practice</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749987)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 4 - Another Rule Synthesis Exercise - Jada's Medical Expenses</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749989)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 4 Knowledge Check - Understanding the Language of Judicial Rulings</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749993)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 4: Legal Analysis Chapter 7 - Practice Exercises</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749979)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 4 Assignment - CALI "Learning Legal Analysis Through Its Component Parts: Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion - IRAC" Exercise</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750019)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 9, 2023	 <u>Module 4 Assignment - Rules for Lina IRAC</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750020)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 5 Group Discussion Board - DRAFT Final Project Case Brief (Post by the Mid-Module Deadline)</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750011)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Feb 12, 2023	 <u>Legal Analysis - Chapter 5: Practice Exercises</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749982)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 5 Knowledge Check - Statutory Analysis</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749988)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 5 - Final Project Decision Chart</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750023)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 5 Assignment - CALI "Statutory Interpretation"</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750021)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 5: Final Project Case Brief</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750022)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 16, 2023	 <u>Module 6 - Group Discussion - Initial Post</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/calendar?event_id=889720&include_contexts=course_139375)	12am
Sun Feb 19, 2023	 <u>Module 6 Discussion (Initial Post due Mid-Module; Response Post due End of Module)</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750008)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 6 Knowledge Check- Criminal Law</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749999)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Study Of Law - Chapter 12: Review Questions</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749996)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Study Of Law - Chapter 13: Review Questions</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749992)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 23, 2023	 <u>Module 6 - Final Project IRACs</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750024)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 7: Group Discussion - Initial Post</u> (https://canvas.asu.edu/calendar?event_id=889719&include_contexts=course_139375)	12am

Date	Details	Due
Sun Feb 26, 2023	 <u>Legal Analysis Practice Exercises - Chapter 6</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749974	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 7 - Administrative Agency Exercise</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749986	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Module 7 Group Discussion Board (Initial Post due Mid-Module; Response Post due End of Module)</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3750007	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Study Of Law - Chapter 2: Review Questions</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749975	due by 11:59pm
Tue Feb 28, 2023	 <u>FINAL EXAM</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749990	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>Acknowledgment</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749978	
	 <u>Module 0: Academic Integrity Agreement</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749994	
	 <u>Module 0: Syllabus Quiz</u> https://canvas.asu.edu/courses/139375/assignments/3749977	



SDO 501 U.S. LAW AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

READING LIST

MODULE 1

The Study of Law, Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study of Law

The Study of Law, Chapter 2: Functions and Sources of Law (*Repeated from Orientation Materials*)

The Study of Law, Chapter 3: Classification of the Law

The Study of Law, Chapter 4: The Court System and the Role of Judges

Legal Analysis, Chapter 1: The Foundations of Legal Analysis

MODULE 2

The Study of Law, Chapter 5: Civil Litigation and Its Alternatives

The Study of Law, Chapter 6: Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Legal Analysis, Chapter 2: Rules

MODULE 3

Legal Analysis, Chapter 3: Inductive Analysis and Analogical Reasoning

Legal Analysis, Chapter 4: Deductive Analysis & Rule-based Reasoning

MODULE 4

Legal Analysis, Chapter 7: Legal Analysis Using a CREAC Paradigm (note that we will be using IRAC in this course, but the CREAC guidance should help you understand IRAC as well).

MODULE 5

Legal Analysis - Chapter 5: Statutory Interpretation

MODULE 6

The Study of Law – Chapter 12: Criminal Law

The Study of Law – Chapter 13: Criminal Procedure

MODULE 7

Legal Analysis – Chapter 6: Policy-Based Reasoning and Other Considerations

*Subject to change.