

Information for Students

Contacting me

If you want to set up an appointment or student lunch, email my assistant, [Claire Kim](#). In the case of a student lunch, there should be about four students, and you should send the names of all participants to Claire.

If you have questions about class materials, you should email me directly.

Class attendance

Students should attend all classes. You may skip a class for a serious professional obligation that cannot be scheduled at other times (such as a job interview) and for medical or serious personal reasons. You may use your judgment, and should *not* email me for permission or to give me notice unless you are assigned to make a presentation in class. However, if you expect to miss more than a few classes, you should talk to me first.

Class participation

Students are expected to be prepared, and may be penalized if they are not. There is no shame in, or penalty for, being wrong, but I very much dislike wasting time with students who did not read the case or read it superficially and try to fake their way through an answer. It is always obvious when students do this and it's much better just to say, "I don't know." In seminars, students are graded on class participation.

Exams

The best way to prepare for exams is to review your notes, and to focus on case book readings that we discussed in class. Other assigned case book readings that we did not discuss may also be helpful but should not receive priority. Take some old exams in exam conditions and compare your answers to the model answers. But be aware that some of the old exams may test materials that we did not study.

The best exam answers are characterized by specificity, relevance, and concreteness. Avoid general statements of the law or keep them short. Do not provide philosophical or policy discussions unless the question asks for them. Use the facts in the question as much as you can. Be sure to give both sides of the argument; recognize the limits of an argument and gauge its strengths and weaknesses. Draw analogies where you can to cases including hypothetical cases or examples that you have studied. Focus on the most important issues and do not discuss irrelevant issues. If you're not sure how to write a legal analysis of an issue, think about how judges do it in the cases we read, and look at the model answers.

Seminar Reaction Papers

These papers should be around 1,000 words. Because of the limited amount of space, you should write as concisely as possible. You will also need to choose a narrow topic. The best type of reaction paper is one that identifies a (major) error, inconsistency, or lapse of judgment in one of the readings. While you will need to describe the author's argument before criticizing it, avoid lengthy summaries. Anticipate counterarguments and refute them as well.

Be sure to use a normal font so that I don't have to squint, and put your name on the document. Email your reaction papers to my assistant by midnight before the seminar meeting.

Seminar Research Papers

You should talk to me about a topic before you start writing your paper. The best topics are narrow, and the most important feature of a paper is its originality. Papers must be *academic*; they should normally rely on primary materials (cases, statutes, regulations, data) and should not merely discuss other academic papers. You must address counterarguments, and maintain a dispassionate tone. You are not writing a brief or policy paper.

Papers should generally be 20-30 pages, double-spaced. You do not need to use complicated citation forms; just be clear and consistent.

You are welcome to show me a draft for comments, but not required to.