COURSE NAME:
Advanced Legal Writing: Practical Skills

COURSE NUMBER:
8707A

PROFESSOR:
Plate

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:
None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:
Interest in improving legal writing skills and a desire to learn about law practice in both transactional and litigation settings

COURSE BOOKS:
Required:
Margaret Temple-Smith & Deborah E. Cupples, *Legal Drafting: Litigation Documents, Contracts, Legislation, and Wills* (Thompson Reuters 2013)

Recommended:
Coleen M. Barger, *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* (5th ed. 2014)

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:
Out-of-class assignments (100%)

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
Advanced Legal Writing: Practical Skills emphasizes the skills and techniques employed in drafting common litigation and transactional documents. It focuses on writing, both in and out of class. Class time is spent discussing, writing, and evaluating a variety of legal documents, with out-of-class time spent drafting and revising various litigation and transactional documents.
COURSE CONTENT:
In-class writing exercises, out-of-class text and writing assignments, lectures, and group discussion and evaluation.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:
This course provides practical, hands-on experience in drafting documents that attorneys must prepare in practice. Moreover, because this class focuses on writing, the improved writing skills will transfer to the essay and practical skills portions of the Bar Exam. Additionally, at least one of the assigned documents has the potential to serve as a writing sample for prospective employers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the semester, students will be able to:
(1) draft clients’ desires concerning legally significant transactions and events;
(2) draft various pre-trial documents, including complaints, answers, and motions;
(3) draft simple contracts and understand the mechanics of larger transactions; and
(4) draft public and private rule-making documents.