

## Logic Skills for Legal Reasoning: First Assignments, Fall 2014

Professor Vern R. Walker

### TWEN

I will administer this course through TWEN (The West Education Network). All of the reading materials assigned below will be posted on TWEN. Please sign up for TWEN as soon as possible. This course can be accessed as “Logic Skills for Legal Reasoning.” If you have TWEN-related questions, please ask one of our librarians at the reference desk for assistance.

**Required Text:** All reading materials will be available on the TWEN site or by other electronic means.

### First Reading Assignments:

#### **Aug 27, Week 1: Introduction to the Course – A Linguistic, Logical Approach to Analysis of Legal Texts (Judicial Decisions)**

Discuss the reason for the course and the pedagogical methods of the course.

First-class reading assignments (available on TWEN course page):

- 1A - Introduction to Linguistics: Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics
- 1B - Introduction to Logic: Deductive and Probabilistic Reasoning

#### **Sep 3, Week 2: Introduction to Linguistics and Logic**

Second-class reading assignments (you should download these PDF files from the TWEN course page, and in order to preserve formatting open them in Adobe Reader (Version 11.0 or later, available free from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>)):

- 1C – Linguistics Background Document
- 1D – *Snyder v. Turk*: Highlighted Examples of Linguistic Concepts
- 1E – Logic Background Document

Please note that these two background documents contain quite a bit of information. I do not expect you to learn all of that information for the second class! As you will see, these background documents will provide reference materials for you throughout the course, and the weekly exercises will focus you on what information is important to know at what stage of the course.

**Note on exercises: after the first class, I will also provide written exercises to be completed before the second class. At the first class, we will discuss how to do these exercises.**