**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INSTRUCTOR:</strong></th>
<th>Christopher Fromm</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PHONE:</strong></td>
<td>213 703 8276</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E-MAIL</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Christopher.fromm@kaplan.com">Christopher.fromm@kaplan.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CLASS MEETING TIME AND PLACE</strong></td>
<td>Class will meet Tuesdays from 2:10-5 (afternoon class) and 6:10 -9 (evening class). Class will meet in Room 308.</td>
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to provide early preparation for both the MBE and writing portions of the New York Bar Exam. With a skills first approach, the course will walk students through the big ticket items in both parts of the NYBE. *This course is not intended to replace the need for a full summer review course; all students must take a full review course prior to the bar exam to prepare adequately for passage.*

**COURSE FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS**

Each week, we will tackle a combination of substance and skill. Students will develop strong bar essay and MPT writing skills as well as increase MBE question taking proficiency.

**Assessment of Progress:** Assessing your own progress using all means at your disposal is an important part of preparing for the bar exam and will be an important part of your success in this course. This course includes a variety of resources to help you master the applicable substantive law and test-taking techniques, and to help you assess your progress:

1. The course text includes quizzes which you will complete on your own each week. The weekly quizzes will be reviewed by the professor in class to reinforce the material and the test-taking techniques. These quizzes will count towards your class participation for the course. Most importantly, you should use these weekly quizzes and reviews to assess your progress and your level of preparedness for the graded assessments in this course.
2. Students will also be assigned essays. Some of these essays will be turned in for feedback, while others will be written as homework and reviewed in class. Completion of these essays will count towards students’ grades and also provide valuable feedback to increase writing skills in advance of the midterm and final exams. The instructions on the Syllabus will indicate whether the assignment requires submission or just completion.

In addition to the quiz questions provided in the course text, you will also have access to an online quiz bank that will allow you to practice sample multiple choice questions in preparation for your mid-term and final exams. The results of your quiz bank progress can be tracked to give you a sense of how you are scoring. Students must complete a minimum of 150 questions in the quiz bank. 50 of those questions must be completed before the midterm exam. Ensure you are familiar with all of the resources that will be used throughout the course, both hard copy and electronic. If there is something that you are not able to find, or use, please ask early.

**GRADES**

This class will follow standard Hofstra School of Law grading policies. The course text includes quizzes which you will complete on your own each week for classroom participation. These weekly quizzes will be reviewed by the professor in class to reinforce the material and the test-taking techniques. There will also be several required writing assignments that will be assigned. These essays will be returned to the students with comments and will be factored into final grades. Students will write several essays and a full performance test throughout the course of the class.

The overall grade will be derived from the following: 600 total points

**Midterm- 200 Points  1.5 Hours**

**Final- 300 Points  3 hours**

**Homework Essay Submission- 100 points**

- 2/1- Criminal Law Essay Due (10 points)
- 2/1- Criminal Procedure Essay Due (10 points)
- 2/15- Civil Procedure Essay Due (20 points)
- 2/23- Simulation- TWEN Dropbox (submission = attendance)
- 3/3- Evidence Essay Due (10 points)
- 3/25- Family Law Essay Due (20 points)
- 4/18- MPT Outline TWEN Dropbox (10 points)
- 4/25- MPT Due (20 points)

There is no midterm grade, just a raw score that will be provided. Students will be able to see a score distribution to provide some indi-
cation of how their scores rank avians the rest of the class. The mid-
term and final exams make up 5/6 of the score, and an additional
1/6th of the score comes from assignments that MUST be submitted
through the Kaplan website and MUST be submitted timely. Failure
to submit timely or in a form other than directly through the Kaplan
website will results in receiving NO CREDIT.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

**Text:** The assigned text, *Principles and Application* and the *Multistate In-
stitutional Outline Book* can be picked up on the first class. You will also
have online access to a Quizbank that you will be required to use to com-
plete questions. Instructions on Quizbank usage will be provided in a later
class. Be on the lookout for an email from Kaplan with your online creden-
tials.

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ALTER THE SYLLABUS IN THE BEST
INTEREST OF THE CLASS. OFTENTIMES WEATHER RELATED IS-
SUES IMPACT THE EARLY SPRING CLASSES AND WE WILL AD-
JUST ACCORDINGLY. ANY CHANGES WILL BE SHARED IMME-
DIATELY.
Learning Objectives

For me to know what to teach, and for you to know what to learn in this course, we should start with the end product: what should you have achieved by the end of the semester? Here are my specific learning objectives for Spring 2016.

1. Understanding Rules of Law—Mastery of specific rules of law
   a. Identification of the elements of several causes of action tested on the bar.
   b. Ability to effectively use these rules on MCQs and essays.

2. Rule Analysis—How to read and understand fact patterns and apply the rules of law to the facts presented

3. Legal Problem Solving—How to apply case precedent, the law and statutes to a fact patterns, and how to advise the best approaches
   a. Identifying legal issues in simple and complex fact situations.
   b. Identifying the relevant legal authority and policy.

4. Legal Argument and Drafting—How to structure a persuasive argument, marshaling the relevant facts and applicable law.
   a. Identifying the legal issues.
   b. Identifying the relevant facts, authority, and policy.
   c. Supporting your position with facts, authority, and policy.
   d. Distinguishing unfavorable facts, authority, and policy.

5. Critical Thinking—How to incorporate policy rationales and critiques into your everyday legal work.
   a. Evaluate cases, rules, statutes, arguments, documents
   b. Lawyering Skills—Learn the basic “how-to’s” effective arguing and analysis for MCQs and Essays.

Learning Objectives

- various methods of legal reasoning;
- how to analyze rules of law, statutes, cases
- how to discern relevant facts and apply a legal principle to those facts;
- how to write more clearly and succinctly;
- how to tailor your writing to a variety of audiences and for specific purposes;
- how to improve your oral communications

Class 1:  Skill- Diagnostic
Date:    January 12th
Professor: Bodenmiller

Coverage: Students will take an 80 question diagnostic exam. This diagnostic will provide students and teacher with data beyond simple knowledge of the law. The results of this diagnostic will be used to evaluate strengths and weaknesses as well as identify areas for improvement throughout the course.

Homework for next class: Students will read pages 294-301; 309-331 dealing with Criminal Law topics in the Multistate Institutional Outline Book.

Class 2: Substance and Skill: Criminal Law- Theft Crimes, Inchoate Crimes, and Mental State Issues

Date: January 19th

Professor: Fromm

Coverage: We will walk through the law pertaining to theft crimes, inchoate crimes and mental state issues followed by review of a 20 question in class check point quiz.

Homework for next class: Read pages 342-367 covering 4th Amendment issues in Criminal Procedure. Write and submit the Criminal Law Essay on or before February 1st. Note this essay will be found ONLY on your Kaplan course page.

Class 3: Substance and Skill: 4th Amendment Search and Seizure

Date: January 26th

Professor: Fromm

Coverage: We will walk through the law pertaining to 4th Amendment search and seizure followed by review of a 20 question in class check point quiz.

Homework for next class: Review notes from Week 2 and 3 for use in next week’s writing workshop. Write and submit the Criminal Procedure Essay on or before February 1st. Note this essay will be found ONLY on your Kaplan course page.

Class 4: Skill: Effective Essay Writing Workshop 1

Date: February 2nd

Professor: Bracci
Coverage: This class will cover effective and efficient tactics for writing NY bar exam essays. Essays that are well laid out receive more points than those that are simply a recitation of the law. Having a plan of attack is critical and central to this lecture. Professor Bracci will review the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure essays submitted for grading. NOTE- you will still receive personalized feedback on your essays.

Homework for next class: Student will review Jurisdiction and Venue on pp 276-285.

Class 5  Substance: Civil Procedure
Date     February 9th
Professor: Effron

Coverage: This class will cover the law and issue spotting exercises in Jurisdiction and Venue issues as they arise in Civil Procedure. This will be followed by review of a 20 question in class check point quiz. Students will also engage in various issue spotting exercises to reinforce the rules and provide a framework for approaching jurisdiction related issues.

Homework for next class: Complete Civil Procedure Quiz 1 on page 91. Write and submit the Civil Procedure Essay on or before February 15th. Note this essay will be found ONLY on your Kaplan course page.

FEBRUARY 16TH NO CLASS

Class 6  Skill: SIMULATION
Date     February 23rd
Professor  Kaplan Instructor

Coverage: In this class, students will put together the substance learned in the previous weeks’ review to tackle a simulation in multiple choice questions and essays as they will appear on the bar exam. Students should bring their laptop to class to write and submit one essay along with a set on MBE questions. This assignment will be sent to students in advance of class and will be submitted by the end of class to the TWEN dropbox.

Homework for next class: Review pgs 254-267 covering Hearsay issues in Evidence.

Class 7: Substance and Skill : Evidence- Hearsay
Date:     March 1st
Professor: Fromm
Coverage: Class will cover Hearsay issues in Evidence; specifically Federal Rules of Evidence 801, 803, 804. This will be followed by review of a 20 question in class check point quiz. Students will also engage in various issue spotting exercises to reinforce the rules and provide a framework for approaching Hearsay issues.

Homework for next class: Prepare for Midterm. Write an submit Evidence essay by 3/3. Note this essay will be found ONLY on your Kaplan course page. Timely submission will provide valuable feedback before next classes midterm.

Class 8  Midterm
Date    March 8
Professor  Fromm
Coverage: 33 MCQs and 1 Essay. Midterm will be in class and proctored. Any questions regarding substance and coverage should be addressed to Professor Fromm. Any issues regarding exam accommodations should be addressed to the Registrar.

Homework for next class: Student will review materials starting on page 308-315 covering Multistate Performance Testing in your course book.

Class 9  Skill Exercise: MPT
Date    March 15th
Professor  Bracci
Coverage: This class will provide an introduction to the MPT discussing its weight, importance and overall placement into the NY Bar Exam. This lecture will also address approaches, how to set up, and analyze various types of MPTs. This will be the first of a three part workshop on Performance Test Preparation.

Homework for next class: Read outline pages 147—171 covering Family Law.

Class 10  Substance and Skill: Family Law
Date    March 22nd
Professor  Rickert
Coverage: In this class, students will review topics in Family Law.
Homework for next class: Read Mortgages on pages 502-525 in your course book. Write and submit the Family Law Essay on or before March 25th. Note this essay will be found ONLY on your Kaplan course page.

March 29th- NO CLASS

Class 11  Substance and Skill: Mortgages
Date       April 5th
Professor  Fromm
Coverage: In this class, students will review topics in Property; specifically the law pertaining to mortgages. Students will also prepare and review a Property Quiz in class.

Homework for next class: Read outline pages 21-43 covering Constitutional Law.

Class 12  Substance and Skill: Constitutional Law
Date       April 12th
Professor  Fromm
Coverage: In this class, students will review topics in Constitutional Law, specifically due process and equal protection issues. Students will also prepare and review a Constitutional Law quiz in class.

Homework for next class: Review an MPT and provide an outline of the issues presented. This outline should be submitted to the TWEN dropbox no later than 4/18. MPT materials will be provided via email and on TWEN under Course Materials.

Class 13  Skill:
Date       April 19th
Professor  Bracci
Coverage: In this class, students will continue part two of the MPT workshop. The class will begin with a review of the MPT assigned to be outlined for homework and then proceed with an in class review of an MPT.
Homework for next class: Write and submit the MPT assignment on or before April 25th. Note this essay will be found ONLY on your Kaplan course page.

Class 14  Skill: MPT Workshop

Date  April 26th

Professor Bracci

Coverage: This class will review the MPT written for homework as well as provide a review for the final exam.

Homework for next class: Prepare for Final.