

SYLLABUS

ADVANCED LEGAL ANALYSIS

Fall 2016

Professors Rod Fong & Richard Sakai

Course Description: Advance preparation for the bar has been shown to successfully increase students' chances of passing the bar exam on their first try. This course will provide information rarely shared by the bar review companies, Classes will also include creative exercises and practice exams with class debriefs and extensive feedback on individual essay exams. Students will develop and hone their skills of analytical thinking, test-taking, and test preparation, all necessary skills to pass the bar exam. Students will also learn how to thrive during the grueling ten-week bar review period and the three-day (February 2017) or two-day (starting July 2017) bar exam.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, assuming you attend the classes, you will know more about the California bar exam than 98% of all other bar candidates.

- You will know why candidates fail the exam and what you can do to avoid those issues.
- You will know how the essays and performance tests are drafted and graded and how to write a passing exam answer.
- You will know how the multiple choice questions (MBE) are drafted and scored and how to read, answer, and practice them.
- You will know how to study for the exam, how to maximize your time, and how to minimize stress.
- You will learn how to interpret past bar essay answers and prepare for the bar exam using lots of past bar essay questions and answers.
- You would have reviewed over 20 past bar essay questions and answers, written at least 6 past bar essays, and started preparation for at least 5 of the 13 subjects.
- You will learn about non-cognitive factors that could adversely affect your performance.
- You will know the limitations and misinformation “Bar Traps” of the commercial bar review courses.
- And most importantly, you will know what YOU need to do to be successful.

Professors: Professors Fong and Sakai have over sixty years of combined experience preparing law students for the bar exam. Both have intimate knowledge of law school pedagogy and curriculum, objectives and operations of bar review providers, and goals and testing formats of bar exam administrators. In addition, both are acutely aware of the academic and non-academic factors that affect performance on the bar exam.

Course Requirements: To earn the two credits for this course:

- (1) pursuant to ABA Standards, you must attend at least 12 of the 14 classes;
- (2) you must write all assigned practice essays and submit your essays for feedback;
- (3) you are required to maintain a journal and submit an entry after each class (maximum one page double spaced). The prompts for each class are: (1) what did you learn in class and (2) what do you still need to work on; and
- (4) you must meet with either Professor Fong or Professor Sakai to develop a personalized study strategy for passing the bar exam.

Course Schedule: (We reserve the right to modify the course schedule depending on the progress of the class.)

Week	Date	Topics Covered in Class
1	Aug 22	Introduction to Advanced Legal Analysis; course goals and learning outcomes Obstacles to passing the bar exam
2	Aug 29	Review bar basics, IRAC & learning styles Outlining essay questions Exercise: outline Torts questions
	Sep 5	Holiday – Labor Day
3	Sep 12	In-class writing - Torts question Debrief question & review published answers
4	Sep 19	Return and briefly review student answers Prep negligence checklist <i>In-class writing – Torts question</i>
5	Sep 26	State Bar grading Standards and Evaluating Calibration session: creating a grading rubric Review published & sample answers
6	Oct 3	<i>In-class writing – Torts question</i>

		Debrief torts question
7	Oct 10	Approach to Contracts Review Contracts hypos
8	Oct 17	<i>In-class writing – Contracts question</i> Debrief question & review published answers
9	Oct 24	Approach to Civil Procedure Review Civil procedure hypos <i>Take-home assignment: write Civil Procedure essay</i>
10	Oct 31	Debrief Civil Procedure essay Approach to Criminal Law Review Criminal Law hypos <i>Take-home assignment: write Criminal Law essay</i>
11	Nov 7	Debrief Criminal Law essay Introduction to MBE questions
12	Nov 14	Next Steps - preparing for bar review Avoiding bar review traps Bar review schedules
13	Nov 21	Approach to Evidence Review Evidence hypos <i>Take-home assignment: write Evidence essay</i>
14	Nov 28	Debrief Evidence essay Final bar preparation strategies and tips What have you learned about preparing for the bar exam?

TWEN Site: All materials distributed in class, including PowerPoint slides, will be available on the Bar None TWEN site. Some of the class assignments will require you to view the Echo video and read the *Getting A Jump on the Bar Exam* materials. These resources can be found on the TWEN site.