



To: Incoming Law Students
From: Professor Farina M. Barth
Date: August 2023
Re: Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research I

Welcome to the University at Buffalo School of Law. Starting law school is a huge accomplishment! Take a deep breath and get yourself organized. I look forward to meeting you all on Tuesday, August 22, for our first class of Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research I (“LAWR I”). This memorandum outlines your responsibilities before our first class.

I. Purchase the Required Class Textbooks.

There are three required textbooks for LAWR I:

1. Christine Coughlin, et al., A Lawyer Writes (3d ed. 2018).
2. Richard Wydick, Plain English for Lawyers (6th ed. 2019).
3. The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st ed. 2020).

Please be careful when purchasing textbooks to ensure you have the correct editions. Older editions will not suffice for this class. You may purchase print or digital copies. This semester, the Coughlin and Wydick texts are available through our law library as e-books. There are also print copies of each text on reserve at the law library for you to review. We will also be using A Lawyer Writes and The Bluebook in LAWR II. In a pinch, the library also carries print copies of these texts.

I highly recommend purchasing a print copy of The Bluebook. However, if you are purchasing a digital copy of The Bluebook, please purchase it directly from: <https://www.legalbluebook.com/>.

II. Enroll in the Online Spaces.

1. Core Grammar for Lawyers (“CGL”): You can find CGL at: to <https://coregrammarforlawyers.com>. Complete the form and select “NY” for your state and the “University at Buffalo School of Law” for your school. This class’s access code is **BUFF2023**, and our class code is **323-162-2919**.
2. Mastering the Bluebook Interactive Exercises (“MBIE”): You can find MBIE at: <https://masteringthebluebook.com/getmbie>. Complete the form and select “NY” for your state and the “University at Buffalo School of Law” for your school. Our class’s access code is **BUFF2023**, and our class code is **323-162-1366**. You can receive a discount by bundling CGL and MBIE by entering the access code.
3. UB Learns: Be sure you have access to our class. If you have holds on your account, you will not have access. Please email me if you have issues with access.



III. Assignments

1. CGL: Once enrolled, complete the Pre-Test by **5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 27**. It takes about an hour to complete the test. Although the test itself is not individually graded, timely completion will impact your grade. Further, you may test out of certain lessons depending on your Pre-Test performance.
2. MBIE: Please make an account before our first class.
3. Readings: Please complete the following readings:
 - a. Introduction and Chapter 1 of A Lawyer Writes
 - b. Top Tips for Mental and Emotional Well-Being While in Law School
 - c. Ten Tips for Transitioning to Legal Writing
 - d. Talking to Students About the Differences Between Undergraduate Writing and Legal Writing
4. Syllabus: Please review the syllabus before our first class. I will post the syllabus on UB Learns shortly before our first class. I will bring a printed copy of the syllabus to our first class for everyone.

IV. Complete the First Writing Assignment.

Prepare your first writing assignment and email it to me by **9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 21**. Please prepare an essay telling me about yourself. The essay should be single-spaced, one-page maximum, and with justified margins. These essays are private and will not be shared with anyone.

Please include: your name, where you consider home, why you chose to go to law school, why you chose the University at Buffalo School of Law, what you hope to get out of law school, whether you have an area of law you are interested in, your strengths and weaknesses as a writer, and anything else you think I should know at the outset of the semester.

We are going to have a great semester, and you got this! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at fariname@buffalo.edu.