

To: Students in LAWR I Section 4

From: Prof. Carina H. Schoenberger

Date: August 2, 2023

Re: LAWR I pre-class checklist

Welcome to UB Law and your first semester of Legal Analysis, Writing & Research (“LAWR”). I, along with our Writing Fellows, Alyssa Carbone '25 and Taylor Phelps '24, look forward to our first class meeting on August 22, 2023.

Before then, please complete the following four items to be ready for class:

Get the required books.

This fall, our section of LAWR will use:

- Christine Coughlin et al., *A Lawyer Writes* (3d ed. 2018)
ISBN 978-1-5310-0876-5; eISBN 978-1-5310-0877-2
- Richard Wydick, *Plain English for Lawyers* (6th ed. 2019)
ISBN 978-1-5310-0699-0; eISBN 978-1-5310-0700-3
- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st ed. 2020)
ISBN 978-05786-6615-0

New print copies range from around \$30-\$60 each and can be purchased directly from the publishers or from online retailers like Amazon. Please be sure to get the right edition. The UB Law library keeps several print copies of each book on reserve and provides free access to the e-book versions of *A Lawyer Writes* (<https://lexisdl.com/library/buffalolaw/title/5674170>) and *Plain English for Lawyers* (<https://lexisdl.com/library/buffalolaw/title/4686053>). You may rely on the e-versions of *A Lawyer Writes* and *Plain English for Lawyers*, if you prefer, but please have a hard copy of *The Bluebook*.

Enroll in the required online programs for grammar and legal citation practice.

Your assignments this semester will include exercises in two online practice banks: Mastering *The Bluebook* Interactive Exercises (“MBIE”) and Core Grammar for Lawyers (“CGL”). Please follow the instructions below to purchase access to both programs and create an account associated with our class.

Mastering *The Bluebook* Interactive Exercises

- Go to <https://masteringthebluebook.com/getmbie>.
- Complete the form, selecting “New York” for your institution state and “University at Buffalo School of Law” for your institution.
- On the payment page, enter **BUFF2023** in the Access Code field. A discounted price will appear immediately (I believe it will be \$23).
- Enter your credit card information, verify the purchase, and create your MBIE account.
- When creating your account, it is very important to include our class code: **323-162-5091**.

Core Grammar for Lawyers

- Go to <https://coregrammar.com/getcgl>.
- Complete the form, selecting “New York” for your institution state and “University at Buffalo School of Law” for your institution.
- On the payment page, enter **BUFF2023** in the Access Code field. A discounted price will appear immediately (I believe it will be \$32).
- Enter your credit card information, verify the purchase, and create your CGL account.
- When creating your account, it is very important to include our class code: **323-162-2085** (different than the MBIE code).

Complete your first writing assignment by noon on Monday, August 21, 2023.

By noon on Monday, August 21, 2023, please send an introductory letter to me at carinasc@buffalo.edu. The letter should be no more than 200 words and should describe (along with any other information you would like to share) your main occupation(s) prior to law school and your motivation for pursuing a law degree. In our class, as a reminder of our mutual respect and to practice a level of formality often found in legal contexts, we will address each other using a formal salutation and surname. Accordingly, please include an appropriate salutation (e.g., Mr., Ms., Mx., Dr.) and any information that will help me and your classmates address you accurately.

When I receive your assignment, I will write back with an introductory essay of my own.

Read the syllabus and first-day assignment by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

Before orientation begins, I will post our fall syllabus and a short court decision in the content section of our class page on UB Learns Brightspace. You can find information about accessing Brightspace and our class page here: <https://www.buffalo.edu/lms/guides-students/brightspacebasics.html>. Please read the posted documents before class begins on August 22, 2023. We will discuss both during our first class.

I look forward to learning more about you through your first writing assignment and throughout this course. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me at carinasc@buffalo.edu.