

To: Incoming Law Students in LAWR Section U2
From: Professor Laura Reilly
Date: August 2019
Re: Introduction to Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research (“LAWR”)

I am looking forward to meeting you all! Prior to our first class on August 19, please complete the following assignments.

1. Read the following articles (posted with this memo):

Do the Opposite for Better Legal Writing by Mark Cooney.

Get Real About Research and Writing by Mark Cooney.

Legal Research, Legal Writing, and Legal Analysis: Putting Law School Into Practice by Suzanne E. Rowe.

Writing It Right: Long Ideas, Short Words by Douglas E. Abrams.

Read the following blog post, found at:

<http://ladylegalwriter.blogspot.com/2017/06/why-does-comey-get-a-in-legal-writing.html>

Why Does Comey get an “A” in Legal Writing for His Written Testimony? by Kirsten Davis.

2. Purchase and activate a one-year subscription to Core Grammar for Lawyers (“CGL”).
 - a. Go to <http://coregrammar.com/getcgl>.
 - b. Complete the form. Select "New York" for the state and "University at Buffalo School of Law" in the school field.
 - c. On the payment page, enter “**BUFF2019**” in the Access Code field.
 - d. Enter your credit card information below, verify the purchase, and continue on to create your CGL account.
 - e. Enter “**319-162-3624**” in the Class Code field
 - f. You will be able to start using CGL immediately.

3. Complete the CGL Pre-Test. Do not opt out of the Pre-Test. The Pre-Test has 96 questions and typically takes about one hour to complete. Completing the Pre-Test before our first class is part of your fall semester grade. Open the Pre-Test by clicking on the home page (called your “Bookshelf”). Do not consult outside resources when you take the Pre-Test.

*Regardless of how you score on the Pre-Test, try not to be too discouraged or too confident. The primary benefit of using CGL is that, by engaging in the interactive lessons that are individually selected for you after the Pre-Test, you can advance your knowledge from whatever your starting point is. One study of the program showed that law students who engaged in the lessons experienced, on average, over 20% improvement from their Pre-Test score to their highest Post-Test score.

4. Write your autobiography. Your autobiography should be typed and no longer than one page, double-spaced, Century Schoolbook 12-point font. Please bring three copies of your autobiography to class with you on August 19.

5. There are four required books for the course. These will be the only books you need for this course for the year. You may purchase the first listed book before the first day of class, but it will be available to you online for free through the law library’s website.

You are required to purchase the second, third, and fourth listed books before the first day of class.

- Morris L. Cohen and Kent C. Olsen, Legal Research in a Nutshell (13th ed. 2018)
ISBN 978-1-64020-804-9
- Terrill Pollman and Judith M. Stinson, Examples and Explanations: Legal Writing (3d ed. 2019)
ISBN 978-1-4548-9122-2
- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (20th ed. 2015)
ISBN 978-0-692-40019-7
- Linda J. Barris, Understanding and Mastering the Bluebook (3d ed. 2015)
ISBN 978-1-61163-774-8

Feel free to buy these books online to minimize costs, though they are also in the UB bookstore – just make sure the ISBN numbers match.

*There have been numerous reports of counterfeit Bluebooks being sold on online marketplaces, including Amazon and Alibris. Many of these books contain significant errors and inconsistencies as compared to the authentic Bluebook. While there are legitimate third-party sellers on these sites, you can only guarantee the authenticity of Bluebooks purchased through www.legalbluebook.com and retail bookstores. Do not purchase an online subscription to the Bluebook or rent it – you will need it throughout law school.

Feel free to contact me before class with any questions at lreilly@buffalo.edu.

Lastly, there is a great blog about the transition to law school. It may be interesting for you to read if you have time (not just before school begins, but throughout the year): <http://lawschoolacademicsuccess.com/category/pre-law/>.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I will see you on August 19!