LEST 449 ADVANCED LEGAL WRITING

A. **TITLE:** Advanced Legal Writing

B. **COURSE NUMBER/SHORT TITLE:** LEST 449/Advanced Legal Writing

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** YES

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** Lecture 3 hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Builds on skills acquired in Legal Writing to prepare students for writing more complex types of legal documents. Students will analyze, cite, and find the sources needed to answer legal questions, including case law statutes, administrative law, and secondary sources.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES:** LEST 330 Legal Writing, or permission of the instructor

J. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students will be able to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. Create legal documents such as responses to pleadings, appellate briefs, and basic contracts, wills, and similar documents.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>b. Find the laws that apply in a given area.</td>
<td>2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>c. Apply cases and statutes to a given set of facts.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence</td>
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4. Inter-Intra Pers. Skills

| e. Cite legal materials in proper legal style. |
| 3. Prof. Competence |

K. POSSIBLE TEXTS:


L. REFERENCES: Articles and other resources placed on online course site

M. EQUIPMENT: Internet access/Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA:
   - Attendance/participation
   - Written Assignments
   - Final Exam

P. DETAILED TOPICAL OUTLINE: See attached.
TOPICS

I. Citations (review)
   A. Generally
      1. Elements
      2. Use
   B. Primary Authority
      1. Cases
      2. Statutes
   C. Secondary Authority
      1. Legal journals
      2. Restatements
      3. Model codes
      4. Treatises
      5. Books
         a. Dictionaries
         b. Legal encyclopedias

II. Pleadings (review)
    A. Format
    B. Purpose
    C. Elements
    D. Audience
    E. Diction

III. Responses to Complaints
    A. Generally
       1. Definition
       2. Purpose
       3. Format
       4. Audience
       5. Contents
    B. Drafting
       1. Legal argument
       2. Quotation from complaint
       3. Legal authority
       4. Language
          a. Diction
          b. Tone

IV. Appellate Briefs
A. Generally
1. Function
   a. Raise issues of law
   b. Rarely cover issues of fact
2. Audience
3. Format
4. Type of writing
   a. Persuasive
   b. Authority-based

B. Drafting
1. Quotation
2. Citation of authorities
3. Table of authorities
   a. Purpose
   b. Format
   c. Diction

V. Contracts
A. Generally
1. Definition
2. Function

B. Drafting
1. Language
2. Specific requirements
   a. Consideration
   b. Enforceability
3. Common problems

VI. Wills
A. Generally
1. Definition
2. Function

B. Drafting
1. Language
2. Validity
3. Specific requirements
4. Common problems

VII. Family Law Documents
A. Prenuptial agreements
1. Definition
2. Function
3. Drafting
a. Specific requirements
b. Common problems
c. Validity

B. Dissolutions
1. Definition
2. Function
3. Drafting
   a. Specific requirements
   b. Common problems
   c. Validity