

Florida State University College of Law
Legal Writing & Research I
Fall 2026 Assignments Syllabus
Professor Parsons

Unless otherwise indicated, all reading assignments are in the A Lawyer Writes textbook. Always bring your laptop to class and the books or materials you used to prepare for class. Assignments listed for certain class dates should be completed before class. Any item with no points listed contributes to your professionalism grade.

Week	Date	Time	Place	Topic	Assignment	Pts
1	8/25	11 am	Class	Introduction and Overview	Read Intro and Ch. 1 and Syllabus	
	8/28	11 am	Class	Sources and Systems of Law	Read Ch. 2	
		Office Hours	Room 202	Visit During Office Hours	Sometime during regular office hours in the first two weeks, visit Professor Parsons office	
2	8/30	11 pm	CG online	Grammar Lesson	Complete Core Grammar Pretest https://coregrammarforlawyers.com/login Class Code is	4
	9/1	11 am	Class	Introduction to CREAC	Read Ch. 6	
	9/4	11 am	Class	Statutes, Judicial Opinions	Read Ch. 3	
3	9/6	11 pm	CG online	Grammar Lesson	Core Grammar Exercise D	4
	9/8	11 am	Class	Rules of Law; Start Memo 1	Read Ch. 4	
	9/11	11 am	Class	Explain the Law	Read Ch. 7.1 and 7.2	
4	9/13	11 pm	CG online	Grammar Lesson	Core Grammar Exercise F	4
	9/15	11 am	Canvas	Memo 1 Draft Due		5
	9/15	11 am	Class	Apply the Law	Read Ch. 8	
	9/18	11 am	Class	Memo 1 Peer Reviews	2 Peer Reviews During Class on Canvas	8
5	9/20	11 pm	CG online	Grammar Lesson	Core Grammar Exercise A and C	4
	9/21	9 am	Canvas	Memo 1 Final Due	Submit and Sign Up for TA Conference	5
	9/22-25	Appt.	TBD	Memo 1 Conference with TA		
	9/22	11 am	Class	Memo Lessons; Conclusions	Read Ch. 9	
				Writing Support	Attendance at Writing Specialist's Workshop	
	9/25	11 am	Class	Begin Closed Memo 2; Synthesis	Read Closed Memo Problem Posted on Canvas; Read Ch. 5	
6	9/27	11 pm	CG online	Grammar Lesson	Core Grammar Exercise B	4

	9/29	11 am	Class	Legal Roadmap and Citations	Brief Closed Memo Cases; Come to Class prepared to discuss; Read Ch. 12; Bring Bluebook to Class; Read Ch. 7.3; Sign Up for Closed Memo Conferences Next Week	
	10/2				Make-up (if needed) or No Class (Replaced by Smith Workshop)	
7	10/5	11 pm	Canvas	Memo 2 Draft Due	Important - Do Not Include Your Name on File	5
	10/6	11 am	Class	Memo 2 Peer Reviews	2 Peer Reviews During Class	8
	10/9	11 am	Special	Lexis Training		
8	10/11	11 pm	Canvas	Memo 2 Final Due	Important - Do Not Include Your Name on File	5
	10/13	11 am	Special	Westlaw Training		
	10/16	11 am	Class	Begin the Open Memo Problem	Read the Open Memo Problem Posted on Canvas; Start Researching After Class	
9	10/20	11 am	Class	Lessons Learned from Memo 2	Come prepared to debrief Memo 2: Ready to Discuss Feedback and Lessons Learned	
	10/23	11 am	Class	Research Best Practices; Question Presented, Brief Answer	Bring Questions about Open Memo Research; Read Ch. 13	
10	10/27	11 am	Class	Statement of Facts	Read Ch. 14	
	10/30	11 am	Canvas	Preliminary Source List	Submit your preliminary source list on Canvas	10
	10/30	11 am	Class			
11	11/1	11 pm	CG online	Grammar Lesson	Core Grammar Exercise E	4
	11/2-6	Appt.	Office	Open Memo Conference	Be prepared to share your outline with Professor Parsons during the meeting. A template will be provided.	
	11/3	11 am	Class	Effective Explanation	Assuming no need for a make-up class, 11/3 and 11/6 will be combined into one session on account of library workshop	
	11/6	11 am	Class	Effective Analysis	Assuming no need for a make-up class, 11/3 and 11/6 will be combined into one session on account of library workshop	
12	11/10	11 am	Class	Conclusion to the Memo	Read Ch. 15	
	11/13	11 am	Class	Last Class and Questions	Read Ch. 16; Last Class before Open Memo Due; Q&A closes at noon	
	11/16	9 am	Canvas/ In Person	Open Memo Due Both Online and Faculty Support	Important - Do Not Include Your Name on File	300
	TBD	TBD		Two library workshop assignments	Waiting on schedule from library, on your own	10
	11/17 and 11/20				No Regular Class Meetings – Made up with Required attendance at Conferences with TAs and Professor Parsons	

					Professionalism	20
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