



**LEGAL STUDY SKILLS (LSS) I**

**I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** Legal Study Skills (LSS) I – LAW 0523

Semester & Year: Fall 2017  
 Course Start and End Dates: August 21, 2017 – December 10, 2017  
 Course CRN & Section: 22273  
 Meeting Day, Time: Tuesday, 9:45 AM – 10:35 AM  
 Location (Davie/Main Campus): Main Campus

Section	Day	Time	Room
1.1	Tuesday	9:45 AM – 10:35 AM	Seminar 2

**II. INSTRUCTOR:**

Name: **Sara Berman**  
 Email: [sberman@nova.edu](mailto:sberman@nova.edu)  
 Phone: 954-262-6112  
 Office Hours: By Appointment

**III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Legal Study Skills is an academic excellence course designed to teach you the skills necessary to successfully participate in class, plan your time, prepare course materials, and practice for exams. We will teach you the critical reading, writing, and thinking skills that are essential to achieve and excel in law school, pass the bar exam, and succeed in the practice of law. We are committed to helping you, through instruction and practice, to do well on your law school exams and the bar exam, and to become the best-equipped lawyer you can be.

***Additional Information:***

LSS I is the Fall semester, first-year course in the Critical Skills Program, in which students assess and develop the essential legal skills of critical reading, logical reasoning, and sound written

analysis. This course helps students begin shaping their professional identities, through training in time management, preparedness, and responsible conduct. Students learn how to study for and what to expect from their first law school exams. This is a required first-year course for day and evening students.

LSS I is the first of six, progressive courses (along with programming at Orientation), designed by the Critical Skills Program to foster success in law school, on the bar exam, and in the practice of law. The program has three foundational goals, identified as the core skills needed to achieve that success: critical reading, logical analysis, and professional identity.

In LLS I, at the beginning of students' law school careers, critical reading is applied to cases, statutes, supplements such as hornbooks, essay questions, multiple choice questions, and more. Logical analysis is applied to coursework, exam preparation, and more. At this stage, professional identity includes, in part, study skills (case briefing, course outlining), calendaring and meeting deadlines, time management, stress management, and effectively using library resources.

#### IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Identify legal issues and apply legal reasoning and analysis to solve problems in a logical and structured manner to issues covered in this course.
2. Communicate orally or in writing, or both, the legal reasoning and analysis regarding issues covered in this course.
3. Demonstrate a proficiency in reading critically the materials assigned for this course.
4. Demonstrate self-directed learning practices for life-long learning.
5. Demonstrate effective organization and management of legal work.

#### *Additional Course Goals:*

1. Students will develop competency in critical reading, thinking, and writing skills through participation in weekly workshops, in order to be successful in law school, on the bar exam, and in future legal practice.
2. Students will practice and attain competency in traditional IRAC skills, writing examination answers by identifying issues, stating rules of law, applying facts to those rules of law, and drawing logical conclusions.
3. Students will learn and understand how to self-evaluate their performance on both examinations and essay writing assignments.

#### V. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

Required: ASP LibGuide; CALI

Suggested: Bridging the Gap Between College and Law School, Carolina Academic Press, ISBN: 978-1-61163-224-8

## VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Regular attendance and participation in LSS I workshops and completion of all LSS I classwork and homework is required in order to graduate from the College of Law. All assignments must be successfully completed regardless of absences.
- B. Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is required in all courses. This course follows the attendance policies detailed in the *Code of Academic Regulations* available at: [https://www.law.nova.edu/about/documents/Code\\_of\\_Academic\\_Regulations.pdf](https://www.law.nova.edu/about/documents/Code_of_Academic_Regulations.pdf). The maximum number of absences allowed before a student receives an F for excessive absences in this course is two (2).

## VII. COURSE SCHEDULE:

Law school courses are very different from what students are used to in undergraduate and other postgraduate educational setting. Adjusting to new methods of study, preparation, and testing can be difficult. Many students report that they did not “figure out what law school is about” until late in their law school careers. LSS I is an opportunity to get oriented early and start strong.

LSS I examines the nature of law school courses, utilizing a mini law school course in the subject of defamation. This provides context for learning how to approach any law school, get the most out of law school coursework, and perform well on law school exams. Please bear in mind, you are not here to learn the law of defamation; you are here to learn the transferable skills you need to succeed in law school courses and beyond.

*Course schedule subject to modification, but not without prior notification.*

Week	Topic	Homework
Session 1 Aug 21-25	<b>Introduction: Professional Identity</b>	Case reading assignment
Session 2 Aug 28-Sep 1	<b>Preparing for Class: Case Briefing</b>	Case briefing assignment
Session 3 Sept 4-8	Mon (Labor Day) – Sec. 4 class meeting date changes TBA <b>Rule of Law: Element/Factor-Based Analysis and Legal Terminology</b>	
Session 4 Sept 11-15	<b>Outlining: Pulling it Together</b>	Outlining assignment
Session 5 Sept 18-22	Rosh Hashanah: Sections 1, 2, & 3 class meeting date changes TBA <b>Practice Tests: Preparing for Exams</b>	

Week	Topic	Homework
Session 6 Sept 25-29	<b>Practice Tests: Preparing for Exams (Continued)</b>	
Session 7 Oct 2-6	<b>Self-Driven Learning: Library Resources, Filling Your Knowledge Gaps</b>	Prepare for final exam
Session 8 Oct 9-13	<b>Final Exam (laptops needed).</b>	Reflect on exam experience. Set goals.
<b>Oct. 16-20</b>	<b>No LSS classes this week. LRW assignment due this week.</b>	
Session 9 23-27	<b>Debriefing of final exam</b>	Exam rewrites, as assigned.
Session 10 Oct 30-Nov 3	<b>Looking Forward to Exams</b>	Individual meetings
Session 11 Nov 6-10	<b>1 L Final Assessment Exam – More information TBA</b>	

#### VIII. GRADING CRITERIA:

**LSS I is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.** Your final grade of “P” or “F” is determined by your performance on attendance, preparation for in-class assignments, completion of all assignments (whether assigned in class or as homework/makeup work), and class participation.

#### IX. UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICY STATEMENTS

Students should visit [www.fcas.nova.edu/about/policies.cfm](http://www.fcas.nova.edu/about/policies.cfm) to access additional required college-wide policies and [https://www.law.nova.edu/about/documents/Code\\_of\\_Academic\\_Regulations.pdf](https://www.law.nova.edu/about/documents/Code_of_Academic_Regulations.pdf) for policies specific to the College of Law. It is your responsibility to access and carefully read these policies to ensure you are fully informed. As a student in this class, you are obligated to follow these policies in addition to the policies established by your instructor.

The following policies are described on these websites:

- Academic misconduct
- Last day to withdraw
- Email policy
- Student course evaluations
- Student responsibility to register
- Student responsibility for course prerequisites
- Class Preparation
- Graduation Requirements, etc.

**Additional Academic Resources:** Nova Southeastern University offers a variety of resources that may aid in student success. Among these resources is:

**Accommodations for students with documented disabilities.** For more information about ADA policy, services, and procedures, students may call the Office of Student Disability Services at 954-262-7189 or visit <http://www.nova.edu/disabilityservices>.