



**Street Law
Spring 2020**

Meeting Times:

Wednesdays 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Approximately three hours weekly in the high school classroom.

Contact Information:

Professor Ellen Marrus Office: 713.743.0894
Cell: 832.654.8862
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office hours by appointment

Professor Alex Hunt Office: 832.315.5495
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Office hours by appointment

TA Gavriella Roisman Cell: 818.481.3496
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Office hours by appointment

Book:

Materials will be distributed electronically and in class.

Objectives:

1. Students will learn how to explain legal concepts in terms understandable to the general public and facilitate effective communication among large groups.
2. Students will develop trial skills such as case theory, opening, closing, direct examination, and cross-examinations.
3. Students will consider how the law impacts the lives of people and the strengths and weakness of the legal system.
4. Students will develop skills on time management, meeting deadlines and handling multiple tasks simultaneously.

Assignments:

All assignments are subject to change. The reading assignments are from the distributed materials.

Class Participation:

All students are expected to be on time. Persistent problems with attendance and/or tardiness will result in a reduced participation grade OR being dropped from the class rolls. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late to class you will be counted absent for that day. Students are not allowed to miss more than four law school classes and should make up any high school classes that are missed.

Grading:

This course fulfills the practice requirement/experiential requirement for graduation. Your final grade will be based on the following:

40 Points – Class presentation (for the mock trial lesson)

240 Points – Class teaching preparation, ability to communicate and assist the assigned high school cooperating teacher, and observations of your teaching of the materials to high school students. (maximum of 60 points for each monthly log, including the final binder).

80 Points – Weekly reflective journal writing (maximum of 20 points for each monthly journal).

Students with Disabilities:

The faculty, staff and administration of the Law Center want to provide every reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, including learning disabilities. For detailed information, please obtain a copy of the disabilities handbook available through Student Services. I will be happy to work with that office and you to make any necessary accommodations.

Student Services:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.

http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html

Preferred Name/Pronoun:

In this class, we address students by their first names. If you prefer an alternate name or prefer to be called by your surname, please let us know in the beginning of the semester. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time if you want to make me aware of your chosen name or preferred pronoun or if you have concerns about we, your classmates, your students, or cooperating teacher address you.

First Class Assignment – January 15th:

Prior to the first class meeting review the mock trial packet and begin to develop some ideas on how you will introduce the mock trial to your students.

Reflect on your goals from the fall semester and come prepared to discuss how you accomplished your fall goals, if you did not accomplish a goal what can you do different this coming semester, and the goals you are setting for yourself and your students for the spring semester.

First Journal Assignment:

What was your aha moment last semester in relation to Street Law? This can be something related to your students, teaching, lawyering, or own personal growth.

What, if any, concerns do you have about the upcoming semester? How might you handle these concerns and what support do you need during this semester?