

Wayland Mission Statement

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Contact Information

Course: JUAD 3315 VC01 – Preparation for Law School

Campus: WBUonline

Term/Session: Fall 1 2024

Instructor: Dr. Brenda Johnson

WBU Email Address: brenda.johnson@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Zoom Appointments Available Upon Request

Class Meeting Time and Location: WBU Online

Course Information

Catalog Description: Preparation for law school and the application process; introduction of typical law school instructional methods and learning strategies.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Textbook Information

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials: McKinsey John A, and Burke, Debra D. 2015. Carper's Understanding the Law, 7th Edition. Cengage. **ISBN-13:** 9781285428420

*The textbook for this course is part of the **Wayland's Automatic eBook** program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore [Automatic eBook FAQ](#) page.*

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Examine the characteristics and skills needed to be a competitive candidate for Law School
- Examine the criteria important in selecting a Law School
- Gain specific knowledge about law school admission requirements and application process
- Develop strategies to be successful in the law school classroom
- Learn how to effectively prepare for the LSAT
- Write a Personal Statement and Resume
- Gain analytic and problem-solving skills, critical reading abilities, writing skills, oral communication and listening abilities, general research skills, task organization and management skills by briefing cases, analyzing case problems, and issue spotting
- Review fundamental aspects of Core First Year Law School subjects in Contract Law, Criminal Law and Cyber Crime, Torts and Product Liability, Criminal and Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, and Property Law
- Review fundamental aspects of core Second and Third Year Law School Subjects in Business Organizations, Secured Transactions, Creditor's Rights and Bankruptcy, Employment Law, Agency and Partnership Wills and Trusts, Evidence, and Insurance Law
- Participate in Mini Mock Trials

Attendance Requirements

WBUonline

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university's attendance policy.

University Policies

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity](#)

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, hammerr@wbu.edu or call (806) 292-9150.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

A. Reading Assignments: Reading assignments are to be completed on time (i.e., before they are scheduled for discussion). You are encouraged to take notes as you read and you should be prepared to participate in online discussions about the assigned reading.

B. Discussion Boards: There will be a discussion topic each week of class, with the exception of Week 8. Each week, a prompt will be posted by Monday by 1:30 PM CST. You will need to formulate your initial response to that prompt by Thursday @ 11:59 PM CST of each week. By Sunday at 11:59 PM CST of each week, you will need to have read your classmates initial responses and reply to at least two of your classmates' posts. You are welcome to respond to more than two of your classmate's posts, but if you do, you will need to clearly indicate which two responses you would like me to grade. Otherwise, I will grade the first two responses.

Note: Posting all your discussions answers on Bb is a major requirement of this course. Accordingly, late posts will receive an automatic 2-point deduction (meaning you will start out with a 90). If you consistently turn in late assignments, the deduction will increase. Also, please remember that Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any way (refer to Wayland Baptist University Policy on Dishonesty). You may view your peers work and postings to learn from one another, but you can't copy their work. Students who have circumstances which prevent them from participating or completing an assignment on time must communicate with me in order to find reasonable accommodations to complete the required course work.

- Your posts must be insightful, thorough, and interesting. These responses should demonstrate an understanding of the assigned readings and should be substantiated by two or more examples from the textbook and/or appropriate websites. Do not forget to cite your sources!
- Each response to your classmates should also be substantive. Participation is measured on the student's interaction and contribution with the course and other students as demonstrated through active involvement on the virtual classroom discussion board. A student's contribution must add value to the course. A discussion board posting is determined to be of substance by containing information that supplements, contradicts, questions, or furthers discussion on a subject area contained in the course. Additionally, it is expected that student participation reflects critical thinking and good grammar.

C. Course Exams and Quizzes: You will not have a midterm or final exam. You will have 8 weekly quizzes, which are timed. The quiz questions require a thorough understanding of the material. Be sure to have course materials and read the applicable chapters in the textbook prior to taking the exam. The quizzes are open book/open note.

D. Law School Selection Assignment: You will be required to research and choose your top three law schools. You will also be required to provide specific information about each school. More information regarding this assignment will be available on the first date of class.

E. Resume Submission: You will be required to create a resume. You **MUST take your resume to the writing center prior to submitting your assignment.** Failure to visit the writing center and have a meaningful conversation regarding your resume will result in a substantial grade deduction.

F. Personal Statement & Letters of Recommendation Assignments: You will be required to create a personal statement. You will also be required to list 5 people that you believe would be good people to write letters of recommendation on your behalf. More information on these assignments will be available on the first date of class.

METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE COURSE GRADE:

1. Email Assignment	40 Points Possible
2. Law School Selection Assignment	100 Points Possible
3. Resume Submission	150 Points Possible
4. Personal Statement Assignment	150 Points Possible
5. Letter of Recommendation Assignment	100 Points Possible
6. Discussion Boards (8 discussion boards worth 20 points each)	160 Points Possible
7. Quizzes (8 quizzes each worth 25 points each)	200 Points Possible
8. Participation	100 Points Possible

TOTAL =	1,000 Points Possible

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term, within the last week of an 8-week session, or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student's control. A grade of "incomplete" is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long 16-week term or 8-week session, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student Grade Appeals: Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and

approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule

Tentative Schedule: ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE (CST)

Week 1 (August 12 – August 18)

- Assigned Reading: Chapters 1 and 3
- Email Assignment: Due Wednesday by 1:00 PM
- Initial Discussion Board Post: Due Thursday by 11:59 PM
- Classmate DB Response (x2): Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Week 1 Quiz: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM

Week 2 (August 19 – August 25)

- Assigned Reading: Chapter 4
- Initial Discussion Board Post: Due Thursday by 11:59 PM
- Classmate DB Response (x2): Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Law School Selection Assignment: Due Sunday at 11:59 PM
- Week 2 Quiz: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM

Week 3 (August 26 – September 1)

- Assigned Reading: Chapter 2
- Initial Discussion Board Post: Due Thursday by 11:59 PM
- Classmate DB Response (x2): Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Letter of Recommendation Assignment: Due Sunday at 11:59 PM
- Week 3 Quiz: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM

Week 4 (September 2 – September 8)

- Assigned Reading: Chapter 6
- Initial Discussion Board Post: Due Thursday by 11:59 PM
- Classmate DB Response (x2): Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Video Lecture: Building Your Best Resume
- Suggested use of “down time” – Start working on your resume, be sure to schedule your appointment w/ the writing center
- Week 4 Quiz: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM

Week 5 (September 9– September 15)

- Assigned Reading: Chapter 7
- Initial Discussion Board Post: Due Thursday by 11:59 PM

- Classmate DB Response (x2): Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Resume Submission: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Week 5 Quiz: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM

Week 6 (September 16 – September 22)

- Assigned Reading: Chapter 8
- Initial Discussion Board Post: Due Thursday by 11:59 PM
- Classmate DB Response (x2): Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Video Lecture: Crafting Your Personal Statement
- Suggested use of “down time” – start working on your personal statement, be sure to schedule your appointment w/ the writing center
- Week 6 Quiz: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM

Week 7 (September 23 – September 29)

- Assigned Reading: Chapter 15
- Initial Discussion Board Post: Due Thursday by 11:59 PM
- Classmate DB Response (x2): Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Personal Statement: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM
- Week 7 Quiz: Due Sunday by 11:59 PM

Week 8 (September 30 – October 5)

- Assigned Reading: Chapter 14
- Initial Discussion Board Post: Due Wednesday by 11:59 PM
- Classmate DB Response (x2): Friday by 11:59 PM
- Week 8 Quiz: Due Friday by 11:59 PM

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Term Begins: August 12, 2024**
- **Census Date: August 19, 2024**
- **Midterm ROUP Submitted: September 9, 2024**
- **Last day to drop with a “w”: September 13, 2024**
- **Last day to drop with “WP/WF”: September 27, 2024 • Last day of Term: October 5, 2024**
- **Grades Due: October 8, 2024.**