

SCHOLARLY WRITING
LAW 510-001 FALL 2025
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This is a 2 credit CR/NC writing course that will ask you to produce a comment or case note suitable for publication, either in your ASLS journal or elsewhere. The final paper should be between 30 and 45 pages long, and the due date is Monday, January 6, 2026. The use of Generative AI resources in drafting your paper is prohibited.

In our first class we'll talk about possible subjects you might want to write about. Note, however, that I'll be listening to you and not supplying you with topics, and that before we begin you should have one or two definite ideas about what you want to write about. Your topic should be original, and you should have researched it to see if it's already been fully covered elsewhere.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Monday 1:50-3:50 PM. We'll meet three times at the beginning of the semester as a full class. Thereafter you will have a break during which to conduct research and writing and to seek any individual input you would like from me.

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment (Hazel Hall 414).

REQUIRED TEXT: Columbia Law Review et al., *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st ed.)

SUGGESTED TEXT: Eugene Volokh, *Academic Legal Writing: Law Review Articles, Student Notes, Seminar Papers, and Getting on Law Review* (5th ed.). At \$32, the book won't kill you. Much of the material in it can be skipped, but I recommend chs. IV-VII (pp. 60-96).

STYLE: In "Politics and the English Language," George Orwell wrote that one tends to fall into clichés and hackney phrases to cover up the absence of thought. As an antidote, he proposed six rules, which I strongly endorse:

- Never use a metaphor, simile or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
- Never use a long word where a short one will do.
- If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.
- Never use the passive where you can use the active.
- Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
- Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

FORMATTING: The final paper should be submitted as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) to my email account above.). It should be double-spaced and left-justified in 12-point Times Roman font with 1" margins (0.5" margins for header and footer). Block quotations should be single-spaced in 12-point Times Roman, indented 0.5" on each side. Titles should be in all caps. Every

page should have a page number centered at the bottom, and a header with your last name centered at the top. Footnotes should be single-spaced in 10-point Times Roman; block quotations should again be indented 0.5” on each side. All footnotes must conform to the Bluebook (20th/21st ed.) for academic works, including the requirements of the Tables.

CLASS RECORDINGS PROHIBITED: No portion of a class session may be preserved by means of a recording device such as an audio recording device or camera.

GRADING: Students will receive either CR (credit) or NC (no credit). CR means work that would receive at least a C grade, and NC means work that would receive a grade below a C.