

LRWA IV – Legislative and Regulatory Drafting

Welcome to LRWA IV – Legislative and Regulatory Drafting. **The work you will do in this course is significantly different from the legal writing you have done to date.** Instead of focusing on past conduct, you will learn to prepare legal documents governing future behavior.

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

- draft statutes and regulations governing the future behavior of people and entities;
- draft rulemaking notices and comments;
- negotiate changes to regulatory language;
- understand and appropriately use drafting techniques to remove ambiguity from statutes and regulations;
- perform legislative and regulatory history research.

You are expected to take initiative and responsibility in connection with your projects and class meetings. It is incumbent upon you to read the material assigned, ask questions of your Professor when you have them, conduct research, consult sources outside of the assigned text and readings as necessary, and submit a quality final product similar to that which you would give an employer. You should be familiar with the syllabus and rules and check Canvas for updates on class meetings and assigned exercises or readings.

Professors: LRWA IV is taught by practitioners who are involved with Scalia Law because they care about the community and about the training of new lawyers. Each Professor has his or her own practice, clients, and family; please keep in mind that due to their professional or personal commitments they will not always be available to e-mail or call you back immediately.

Required Textbook: Richard K. Neumann Jr. & J. Lyn Entrikin, Legal Drafting By Design: A Unified Approach (Wolters Kluwer) (“**LDD**”)

Restrictions on Collaboration: This course teaches and tests new methods of research and new writing concepts. While students may discuss the concepts, the readings, and the various project and exercise content with other students, **students may not share their written work product or request or accept drafting, editing, or proofreading assistance from any person or from any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool unless expressly authorized by their Professor. Academic Regulations regarding the use of AI apply in this course.**

Assignment Information

Grading Methods: Individual assignments are graded on either a 0 to 6-point scale or an Expanded Pass/Fail basis. A grading guide describing the 6-point scale is available on Canvas. The possible grades for Expanded Pass/Fail projects are: High Pass; Pass; Low Pass, Fail.

Coursework: You will prepare a variety of outside exercises for in-class discussion. You will also prepare three major written projects and will participate in a negotiation. While the projects

and the negotiation are related, you will be acting in different roles for each. Specific instructions for the projects will be included in each project memo.

The exercises and projects for the semester, with their assigned percentage value and applicable grading method, are as follows:

Homework Exercises 1-4	Various assigned exercises	20%	EP/F
Project 1	Statute revisions	10%	6Pt
Project 2	Comment to proposed rules	20%	6Pt
Project 3	Negotiation	10%	EP/F
Project 4	Final Rule	35%	6Pt

The projects this semester build on each other and continued use of and attention to items introduced in early assigned exercises and projects will be necessary to perform well in later projects. **Once a topic or drafting technique has been introduced and used for one project it will continue to be relevant for all following projects.**

Professionalism: In addition to the assignments, 5% of the final grade is based on professionalism. Professionalism grades are awarded on the six-point scale. Class participation is one aspect of that valuation, which may include performance of in-class or supplemental exercises, indices of preparation, attention and focus during class, and interaction with classmates and your Professor during class. The professionalism score will also take into account your interactions with your Professor outside of class, including at one-on-one meetings and in your e-mail or telephone communications with your Professor, the Director, or both.

Exercise and Project Submissions: Exercises and Projects must be electronically submitted through Canvas. Your Professor may also require the submission of hard copies.

Required Header and File Names: All written exercises and projects submitted electronically must contain the following information centered as a header on a single line on every page using the same font as the body of the work: [Semester Identification] [Instructor Name] [Project Number or Exercise Number] [AGN or Name]. For example, a student submitting the Project 1 in Prof. Atkins's section would use the following:

Spring 2026 Atkins P1 637A92V

And a student submitting the Exercise 1 in Prof. Atkins's section would use the following:

Spring 2026 Atkins E1 Joe Jackson

For **all** submissions, **use the same header text to name your file.**

Time Penalties and Extensions of Time: LRWA Rule 3, which governs project submission and extension requests, applies to all exercises and projects regardless of grading scale. **Exercises and projects submitted after the submission deadline will receive a zero.**

Your Professor does not have the authority to grant extensions of time. You may only request an extension of time from the Director. Extensions of time must be requested *prior to* the due date and time whenever possible. **Absent a compelling reason for the delay, requests received after the project is due will be denied.** Please see LRWA Rules 3.13 and 3.14 for further information on extensions of time. This process applies to all students, including those with approved disability accommodations.

Anonymous Grading: LRWA IV employs the same anonymous grading scheme used in LRWA III. Seven-character AGNs will be used for all projects graded using the 6-point scale, and **you must select your AGNs online before 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26.** A link to the form has been posted on Canvas. **Please note that, under the LRWA Rules, penalties will attach for failure to timely submit AGNs.** Other penalties related to AGNs are set forth in the LRWA Rules.

Administrative Items

LRWA Rules: You are responsible for knowing and following the rules specifically applicable to this LRWA course which are posted on Canvas.

A Note on Plagiarism & A Note of Caution: The rules on plagiarism are different in this course than those applicable in other courses. Most attorneys drafting a statute or regulation start with existing language from other statutes or regulations; this is considered an acceptable practice and does not raise issues of plagiarism. But merely repeating language found elsewhere is not advisable. Your primary goal is to create legal documents that accurately reflect the will of the legislature. If you rely on language copied from elsewhere without fully considering drafting guidelines and the substantive issues in the problem provided, you may not meet that goal. If you use language from other sources such as existing statutes, regulations, forms, models, or from AI you must disclose that use to your professor. **Disclosures must be detailed and include citation sufficient to allow the professor to review the source. In the case of AI, the disclosure must include all prompts used (verbatim), identification of the AI tool or tools used, and a description of how the AI generated text was used.**

Use of Student Projects: Any project you submit to your Professor may be used as a teaching tool for discussion with the entire class.

Schedule: A class meeting schedule with reading assignments and due dates begins on page 6 of this Syllabus. Professors may add additional required or recommended readings to those provided in this Syllabus and may change the schedule as needed.

Questions: Direct questions about the class materials or the projects to your Professor. Direct general questions, comments and suggestions, or concerns about the program to the director of the program: Dean Atkins Hazel 433BA, (703) 993-9158, jatkins8@gmu.edu

Legislative Drafting				
Day	Time	Professor	Section #	Room #
Tuesday	6:05pm	Brazelton	99-13	
Wednesday	9:40am	Atkins	99-01	
Wednesday	6:05pm	Martinez	99-05	
Wednesday	6:05pm	Lareau	99-11	
Thursday	9:40am	Bowles	99-02	
Thursday	6:05pm	Perry	99-06	
Thursday	8:10pm	Wagstaff	99-09	

Schedule

The following schedule provides class meeting dates and information, reading and assignments to complete **before** class, and due dates of projects. The schedule does not include any section-specific readings or assignments. Professors may change class session timing and content as needed.

Class Sessions & Due Dates	Class Topics	Required Reading/Assignments
Week 1 Wed. 1/14 Thu. 1/15 Tue. 1/20	Overview of legal drafting The work of a drafting attorney in the legislative & regulatory area Introduction to modern language drafting Introduction to the topic and the work to be done	Syllabus and LRWA IV Rules LDD Chapters 1, 2, and 3 Project 1 Memo and background material
Week 2 (Week of 1/26)	Drafting Statutes and Regulations	LDD Chapters 6, 8, 36, 37, and 38
Due Date: Sunday 2/1 Exercise 1 due before 11 p.m.		
Week 3 (Week of 2/2)	Duties and Discretionary Authority	LDD Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 13
Due Date: Sunday 2/8 Exercise 2 due before 11:00 p.m.		
Week 4 (Week of 2/9)	Declarations and Definitions Drafting Principles	LDD Chapters 5 and 12
Due Date: Sunday 2/15 Project 1 Statute Revisions due before 11:00 p.m.		
Week 5 (Week of 2/16)	Regulatory Process & Refining Drafting	LDD Chapter 16
Due Date: Sunday 2/22 Exercise 3 due before 11:00 p.m.		

Week 6 (Week of 2/23)	Refining Drafting Techniques	LDD Chapters 7, 14, 15, and 18
Due Date: Sunday 3/1 Exercise 4 due before 11:00pm		
Week 7 (Week 3/2)	Refining Drafting Techniques Organization, Punctuation, Sentence Structure	LDD Chapters 20, 21, and 22
Due Date: Sunday 3/8 Project 2 Comment due before 11:00 p.m.		
SPRING BREAK		
Week 8 (Week of 3/16)	Public Policy, Ethics, & Statutory Interpretation Introduction to Project 3	LDD Chapters 4, 17, 19, 34, and 35 Project 3 materials Exercise 4 memo
Week 9 (Week of 3/23)	Negotiation Materials and Techniques Preparation for Negotiation	Exercise 5 memo
Due Date: Sunday 3/29 Project 3 Written Negotiation Materials due before 11:00 p.m.		
Week 10 (Week of 3/29)	Project 3 In Class Negotiations	Negotiations held during class or as scheduled by your Professor
Week 11 (Week of 4/6)	Drafting the final rule	
Week 12 (Week of 4/13)	Wrap up	
Due Date: Friday 4/24 Project 3: Final Rule due before 11:00 p.m.		