

Law 178 (R03) 20131
Legal Fundamentals – NextGen UBE | Spring 2026 | 3 credits
Administered by BARBRI | Final Exam: , 2026

Welcome to your Legal Fundamentals – NextGen UBE Online Class!

Overview

Legal Fundamentals – NextGen UBE is a skills-forward course designed to introduce and develop the core competencies tested on the NextGen Uniform Bar Exam. The course emphasizes the integration of substantive law knowledge with foundational lawyering skills through realistic, practice-based assessment formats.

Students will engage in in-depth review of highly tested topics in Contracts, Evidence, Torts, and Real Property, while learning to apply that knowledge through NextGen-style multiple-choice questions, integrated question sets and performance tasks. Instruction focuses on developing essential skills such as reading comprehension, issue identification, rule application, legal reasoning, factual analysis, and professional judgment—skills that are tested across multiple subject areas on the NextGen exam.

Throughout the semester, students will practice applying law to fact patterns that mirror real-world legal scenarios, including consulting, drafting, and analytical tasks. The course also introduces students to the structure, expectations, and strategic approach required for success on the NextGen bar exam.

The goal of this course is to help students build both substantive fluency and practical lawyering skills, while developing effective exam strategies and study habits that support long-term bar exam success.

Please note— This course is not intended to and does not replace the need for a complete commercial bar review course. To fully prepare for the bar exam, you should plan to take a complete commercial bar review course prior to the bar exam.

Instructor Contact Information

Laura Soprana-Dec, Director of Bar Support: lsoprana@gmu.edu

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST (in person or via Zoom) via appointment.

Course support email:

Support@lawstudentonline.com

800-472-8899

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply foundational lawyering skills—including reading comprehension, issue identification, rule application, factual analysis, and legal reasoning—in the context of NextGen UBE assessment formats.
- Demonstrate the ability to integrate substantive law knowledge from Contracts, Evidence, Torts, and Real Property into multi-layered fact patterns and practice-based questions.
- Analyze and respond effectively to NextGen integrated question sets, including consulting, drafting, and analytical tasks.
- Interpret and complete NextGen performance tasks, including identifying relevant facts, synthesizing legal authorities, and producing effective work product under time constraints.
- Use systematic problem-solving strategies to approach bar exam questions efficiently and strategically.
- Recognize commonly tested doctrines and recurring legal issues and apply them accurately in exam-style scenarios.

- Develop effective exam-taking strategies tailored to NextGen assessment formats, including time management and strategic prioritization.
- Self-assess performance and identify areas for improvement using feedback from quizzes, integrated exercises, performance tasks, and exams.
- Implement effective bar preparation habits, including study planning, memorization techniques, and stress management strategies.
- Demonstrate professional conduct consistent with law school and bar admission expectations, including preparedness, participation, clear communication, and adherence to deadlines.

Evaluation

Grading Basis: This course is graded **Credit (CR)/No Credit (NC)**. There is no curve or letter grade; you will receive a grade of "CR" (Credit) if you meet the course requirements, or "NC" (No Credit) if you do not. CR indicates work equivalent to a C or better on the A+* through F scale. The grade of NC indicates work that falls below the equivalent of a C on the A+* through F scale and does not qualify for credit towards the Juris Doctor degree. Unlike traditional law school courses, and very much like the bar exam, assignments are not graded on a curve. Your success in the course is dependent on the effort you put in and not based how you measure with your peers. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be completed on an individual basis. It will be a breach of the school's Academic Standards if students collaborate or work on these assignments together.

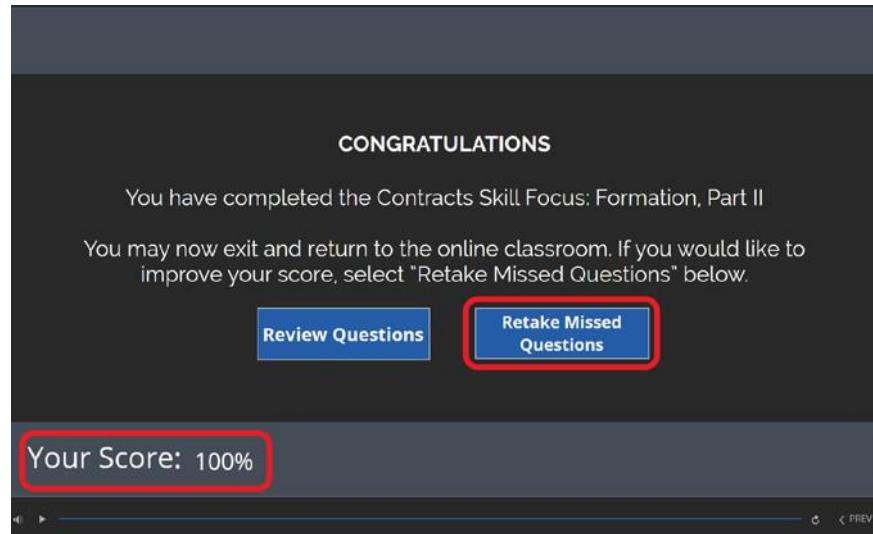
Percentages below indicate how each element contributes to your overall course evaluation:

1. Lecture Scores – 20%

- Each Substantive Lecture, Workshop, and Skill Reinforcement lecture is scored. Your overall "Lecture Score" will be the average of all individual lecture scores. The score on each lecture is based on the number of correctly answered questions embedded in the lecture. However, you are allowed unlimited attempts to re-answer missed questions and bring every lecture score to 100%. The highest score achieved on each lecture will be factored into your overall "Lecture Score."

You may retake a lecture to improve the score at any point during the course (i.e., you may improve a lecture score after the deadline has passed for that lecture). After the final exam window has closed, any incomplete lectures will be scored as a zero when calculating your overall "Lecture Score."

You will know you've completed a lecture once you reach the final "Congratulations!" screen (see screenshot below). Your score on the lecture will be provided on this screen as well. If you would like to improve your lecture score to 100%, click on **"Retake Missed Questions"** and you will have the opportunity to re-answer any questions you initially answered incorrectly. Your highest score will be counted, so it is to your benefit to correctly re-answer missed questions and bring each lecture score to 100%.



To improve a lecture score **after exiting the lecture**, simply re-open that lecture segment, select "Retake Content," < "Resume" < "Retake Missed Questions."

2. Quizzes & Performance Task Submissions - 20%

- **NextGen Pre-test:** There is one course pre-test focused on the subjects covered in the course. The pre-test serves as a baseline of your initial knowledge and skills.
- **Retention Building Quizzes:** There are four Retention Building Quizzes assigned in the course (one for each subject). Retention Building Quizzes are scored.
- **Performance Task submissions:** There are three PTs submitted (two for feedback).

3. Midterm Exam - 20%

- A closed-book, timed mid-semester assessment administered **remotely** through BARBRI's D2L platform on **March 18, 2026**. Students' in-person presence at Scalia Law is **NOT** required.
- It will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions and 1 integrated item set.
- You will have 60 minutes for the exam.
- The midterm exam will cover Contracts and Evidence along with NextGen Skills.
- The midterm exam will be closed-book (no materials allowed).

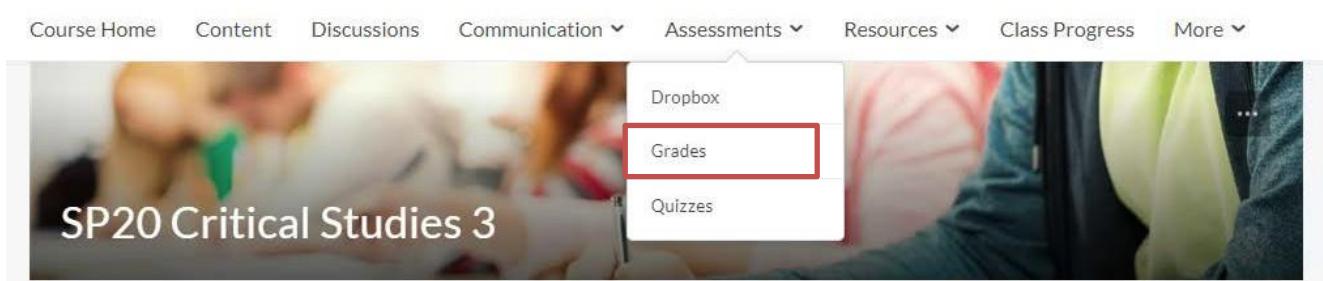
4. Final Exam - 40%

- A closed-book, timed final assessment administered through BARBRI's D2L platform. **Students' in-person presence at Scalia Law IS required.** Although the exam is delivered via the D2L platform, the Records Office will provide a classroom, and proctors will be present to monitor the administration of the exam.
- It will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions, 2 integrated item sets, and 1 Performance Task.
- You will have 3 hours to complete the final exam.
- The final exam is cumulative and covers all subjects and skills in the course.
- The final exam will be closed-book (no materials allowed).

Academic Regulation 4-5 (Examinations) apply to both the Midterm and the Final exams.

Final Determination: To receive a grade of “CR” for this course, students must achieve an overall weighted score of at least 65%.

You may view your overall course score as well as your Lecture, Quiz, PT, and midterm exam score at any point throughout the course directly in the D2L online classroom. To access the gradebook, Click “Assessments” > “Grades” on the Course Navigation Bar.



Attendance

Attendance is monitored each week. To be counted as "Present" during the week, you must complete/submit all assignments for that week. Failure to complete/submit an assignment by the weekly deadline will result in you being counted absent for the week. All absences are tracked and reported to the Instructor (Director of Bar Support). If you have missed any work for the given week, you will receive an automatic email the Monday after your assignments are due.

***NOTE that your completion of assignments is based on grade reporting in the gradebook, not the completion check mark next to the assignment.**

No exceptions to a submission deadline or to the attendance policy will be granted unless warranted by Academic Regulations.

Scalia Law Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is mandatory in accordance with law school policy and Academic Regulations. If you are absent for any reason for more than 20% of the class sessions (which is 2 out of 13 meetings for this course), you are not eligible for credit. If you must miss a 3rd or 4th class (up to ~30% of sessions), you must seek approval by communicating with your instructor in writing and completing substitute work approved by the instructor to make up for those additional absences. Substituted work is solely at the instructor's discretion, and no instructor is compelled to permit it. More than 4 absences, at the above-described conditions, will violate the attendance requirements and will result in a grade of NC for the course.

Reading and Homework Assignments

You are expected to complete the module segments by the dates provided in the below Assignment Schedule. Estimated completion times are provided as a reference and to help you plan accordingly.

You may be given additional assignments during the course. Your instructor reserves the right to change assignments with sufficient notice.

Course Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

All work submitted in this course, including assignments and exams, must be your own original work; use of AI writing tools, such as ChatGPT, are prohibited in this course and will be considered a violation of academic standards. Original work is required in this course to meet its learning objectives. Work produced by Generative AI is not original work and will not aid in the learning process for this course. Law school instructors and administrators reserve the right to use AI detection software to find instances of AI in student submissions.

Professionalism and Expectations

You are entering the final stretch of law school, and this course should be approached with a high level of professionalism. Preparation, participation, and respect are expected at all times. All students must abide by Academic Standards and Academic Regulations in doing coursework – all work you submit (quizzes, performance task assignments, etc.) must be your own.

Remember that this course is designed to help you pass the bar exam and transition into practice. It will only be effective if you commit to it and take the assignments seriously. Treat each task as an opportunity to develop skills and knowledge that you will need on the bar exam. By keeping up with the work, attending class, and putting forth your best effort, you will not only earn credit for this class, but also set yourself up for success on the bar exam and your legal career.

Additional Resources

- NCBE website: [NextGen Bar Exam | NCBE](#):
 - NCBE New Resources for Examinees: [NextGen Bar Exam | NCBE](#)
 - NCBE Official Examinees' Guide to NextGen UBE:
 - [Official Examinees' Guide to the NextGen UBE, July 2026-February 2027](#)
 - NCBE Bar Exam Content Scope: [NextGen UBE Content Scope, July 2026-February 2027](#)
 - Free Sample Questions: [NextGen Sample Questions | NCBE](#)
 - [NCBE - NextGen UBE Constructed Response Guide - 12.2.25.pdf](#)
- Ask Edna! With JDEdge – Module “Bar Success: Your Guide to the Bar Exam”
- Cali Lessons – Module “Bar Success and Planning”
- [MAX by AccessLex](#) – Financial Planning Module
- Lexis Study Aids
- West Academic Study Aids – “Bar Exam Success”
- Scalia Law Library Resources – “Bar Exam Support Guide”
- BARBRI free resources for extra practice questions:
 - BARBRI 1L Exam Success | Quimbee
 - Unlock Free 2L and 3L Success
 - Free Bar Exam Digest | BARBRI Resources

Assignment Schedule

Week	Module Topic	Assignments (Must be completed in the order listed. All assignments due by 11:59 pm ET on Sunday each week unless otherwise noted)
Pre-Course Work Complete before 1/12	Introduction to the Course NextGen Pre-Test	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Pre-Course Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Introduction to the NextGen Bar Exam lecture • Read the NCBE's Official Examinee's Guide to the NextGen UBE • Complete NextGen Pre-test
WEEK 1 1/12-1/18	Introduction to Systematic Problem Solving Contracts Substantive Review	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 1 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Introduction to Systematic Problem-Solving Lecture: Parts I & II • Read Contracts Outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course—note starred subtopics) • Complete Contracts Substantive Lectures: Formation Parts I, II, III, & IV

WEEK 2 1/17-1/25	Contracts Skill Development & Substantive Review	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 2 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Contracts Workshop: Formation • Complete Contracts Substantive Lectures: Defenses Parts I, II, & III • Complete Contracts Workshop: Defenses • Complete Contracts Substantive Lectures: Remedies Parts I, II, & III
WEEK 3 1/24-2/1	NextGen Skill Development & Retention Quiz	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 3 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Contracts Workshop: Remedies • Complete How to Approach an Integrated Question Set lecture • Complete Contracts Skill Reinforcement: Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Skill Spotlight + Integrated Set • <u>Complete Contracts + NextGen Skill Retention Building Quiz and review explanatory answers</u> (<i>this assignment will be scored</i>)

WEEK 4 1/31-2/8	Evidence Substantive Review & Skill Development	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 4 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Evidence outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course—note starred subtopics) • Complete Evidence Substantive Lectures: Hearsay Part I, II, III, & IV • Complete Evidence Workshop: Hearsay • Complete Evidence Substantive Lectures: Character Parts I & II
WEEK 5 2/7-2/15	Evidence Substantive Review & Skill Development	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 5 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Evidence Substantive Lectures: Character Parts I & II • Complete Evidence Workshop: Character • Complete Evidence Substantive Lectures: Impeachment Parts I & II • Complete Evidence Workshop: Impeachment

WEEK 6 2/14-2/22	NextGen Skill Development & Retention Quiz	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 6 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Evidence Skill Reinforcement: Investigation & Evaluation Skill Spotlight + Integrated Set • <u>Complete Evidence + NextGen Skill Retention Building Quiz and review explanatory answers</u> (<i>this assignment will be scored</i>)
Week 7 2/21-3/1	Introduction to the Performance Task	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 7 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Introduction to the Performance Task • Read PT Primer • <u>Outline and submit an answer to PT #1</u> (60 min) (<i>ungraded</i>) • Complete PT: Introduction to the Task Memo • Complete PT: The Library • Complete PT: The File • Complete PT: The Answer

WEEK 8 2/28-3/8	Performance Task Skill Development Practice Midterm	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 8 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Submit an answer for PT #2 for grading</u> (60 min) • Complete PT #2 review lecture • Complete practice Midterm (multiple-choice and integrated item set) (self-grade) • Study for Midterm Exam
SPRING BREAK 3/9-3/13	Spring Break	

WEEK 9 3/14-3/22 *Remote midterm exam on March 18, 2026.	Midterm Exam Torts Substantive Review	<i>Complete all activities under the Week 9 Module:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote midterm exam through BARBRI D2L platform (no in person presence at Scalia Law required) • Read and study Torts outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course—note starred subtopics) • Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: General and Special Duties of Care
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WEEK 10 3/21-3/29	Midterm Review Torts Substantive Review & Skill Development	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 10 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the midterm exam review • Complete Torts Workshop: General and Special Duties of Care • Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: Breach of Duty, Causation, & Damages • Complete Torts Workshop: Breach of Duty, Causation, & Damages • Complete Torts Substantive Lecture: Intentional Torts • Complete Torts Workshop: Intentional Torts
WEEK 11 3/28-4/5	NextGen Skill Development & Retention Quiz	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 11 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Torts Skill Reinforcement: Client Counseling & Advising Skill Spotlight + Integrated Set • <u>Complete Torts & NextGen Skill Retention Building Quiz and review explanatory answers</u> (<u>this assignment will be scored</u>) • Read Real Property outline (skim and use for reference throughout the course—note starred subtopics) • Complete Real Property Substantive Lectures: Conveyancing Part I (Land Sale Contracts) and Part II (Deeds)

WEEK 12 4/4-4/12	Real Property Substantive Review & Skill Development PT Practice	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 12 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Real Property Workshop: Real Estate Contracts & Deeds • <u>Submit an answer for PT #3</u> (you will self-grade this assignment) • Review model answer for PT #3 • Complete Real Property Substantive Lecture: Recording • Complete Real Property Workshop: Recording
WEEK 13 4/11-4/19	Real Property Substantive Review & Skill Development	<p><i>Complete all activities under the Week 13 Module:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Real Property Substantive Lecture: Mortgages • Complete Real Property Workshop: Mortgages • Complete Real Property Skill Reinforcement: Legal Research & Client Relationship Management Skill Spotlight + Integrated Set • <u>Complete Real Property & NextGen Skill Retention Building Quiz and review explanatory answers</u> • Study for the final exam

Final Exam TBD	Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Final Exam in person at Scalia Law through BARBRI's D2L platform
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