

Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2026

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Arts and Sciences
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org ASC Administration - D4350
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 2310
Course Title Law School Exploration and Professionalism
Transcript Abbreviation Law School Explore
Course Description This seminar is designed to explore the world of law and law schools as well as elements of personal and professional development. Thematic topics will include exploring options within the legal career field, understanding professionalism and developing skills appropriate to the legal profession; communication, conflict, and problem solving; and the logistics of the law school application process.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 1

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Laboratory
Grade Roster Component Laboratory
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites
Exclusions
Electronically Enforced Yes

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 24.0101
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank Sophomore, Junior

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Explore the legal profession and learn the realities of the industry.
Learn about Ohio's judicial system.
Develop professional skills critical to being a lawyer.
Articulate how your strengths, skills, and values align with the legal field.
- Understand the nature of ethical advocacy.
Recognize the importance of diversity in the context of legal and related frameworks
Learn about the components and timing of the law school application process.
- Incorporate peer and instructor feedback into components of the application.

Content Topic List

- First Amendment
Legal Profession
Trial Court
Professionalism & Executive Functioning
Critical Thinking & Analysis
Ohio Supreme Court
Reading For Detail
Cognitive Biases & difficult Conversations
Law School Applications
Personal Statements

Sought Concurrence

- Resumes
No

Attachments

- Pre-Law Seminar.pdf: Syllabus
(Syllabus. Owner: Bitters, Todd Aaron)

Comments

COURSE REQUEST
2310 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Chantal
05/06/2025

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Bitters, Todd Aaron	04/29/2025 02:48 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	05/06/2025 11:08 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	05/06/2025 11:08 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin, Deborah Kay Hilty, Michael Neff, Jennifer Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Steele, Rachel Lea	05/06/2025 11:08 AM	ASCCAO Approval

Law School Exploration and Professionalism

ASC 2310

The Ohio State University
Spring 2026, 1 Credit Hours

Instructor:	Kevin A. Freeman, J.D.	Class # xxxxx (Tuesdays)
E-Mail:	freeman.259@osu.edu	- Tuesdays 10:05am-11:55am
Phone:	614-247-7821	- location TBA
Office:	134 Denney Hall 164 Annie and John Glenn Avenue	<i>There is no textbook to purchase for this course - materials will be provided</i>
Office Hours:	Thu 3-5pm or by appointment	

*Email is not a great method of communication for many/most questions however if you need to email me be sure to include **ASC 2310** in the subject line so I can prioritize getting back to you quickly. I'm usually willing to stay after class to chat plus students are always welcome to either stop by office hours or schedule a phone, Zoom, or in-person appointment.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This seminar is designed to explore the world of law and law schools as well as elements of personal and professional development. Thematic topics will include but are not limited to exploring options within the legal career field, understanding professionalism and developing skills appropriate to the legal profession; communication, conflict, and problem solving; and the logistics of the law school application process. Through the sessions and assignments in this course, students will...

- Explore the legal profession and learn the realities of the industry
- Learn about Ohio's judicial system
- Develop professional skills critical to being a lawyer
- Articulate how your strengths, skills, and values align with the legal field
- Understand the nature of ethical advocacy
- Recognize the importance of diversity in the context of legal and related frameworks
- Learn about the components and timing of the law school application process
- Incorporate peer and instructor feedback into components of the application

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND MODE OF DELIVERY

Credit hours and expectations: This is a one (1) credit graded course and will be taught in-person during the scheduled class meeting time. Officially this course will be taught as a lab class; according to [Ohio State policy](#) students should expect around two (2) hours per week of time spent on direct (in-class) instruction in addition to one (1) hour of homework (outside class) to receive a grade of (C) average. Practically speaking the in-class component will be primarily taught “recitation-style” with in-class discussions, interactive exercises, and a group project component.

Attendance and participation requirements: In-person attendance is required - this course is not a self-paced learning experience and unexcused absences will result in a loss of points. Excused absences, e.g. illness or other extenuating circumstances (life happens) may be permitted however you must email me directly about such an absence – do not ask a classmate to tell me.

Regular and active participation in the course is expected. Everyone should prepare for class by completing assigned readings or viewings on time and by contributing to our discussions and other in-class exercises.

Pace of homework: This course is divided into weekly modules. Apart from our in-class sessions you may schedule your coursework freely throughout the week as you keep pace with due dates.

Field trips: State and federal courts conduct business during traditional office hours (M-F 8am-5pm). In order to observe the legal system in action, including attending hearings and meeting with attorneys and judges, two (2) of the class sessions will take place off-campus with visits to area courthouses. In order to accommodate these field trips students are encouraged to avoid scheduling other classes the same morning as this course, to the extent that it is possible to do so without negatively impacting a student’s degree plan. If a student cannot avoid a course conflict they will be provided with a letter vouching for the purpose of the trip and their involvement to share with the instructor of the other course. If a student does not receive permission from the other course instructor to attend either or both courthouse visits they will be given the opportunity to complete alternate assignments.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

This course will be taught in person, utilizing applications/platforms outside of class. There is no textbook that will be used. Any required reading/viewing materials will be provided or made available electronically, typically in the form of a journal or news article, website, or other format easily accessible. Any technology used during class should be for the purpose of taking notes, sharing drafts of documents for peer review, or other course-approved usage unless otherwise noted. **Smartphones must be put away during class unless explicitly permitted.**

Outside of class you will need the following to complete coursework:

- **Primary Device** – any laptop, desktop, tablet may be used if it can effectively access the applications/platforms listed below. Smartphones are not your friend.
- **Other Device** – a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) or a landline to use for BuckeyePass multi-factor authentication to access course materials in Carmen and other OSU resources.
- **Microsoft Office 365** – All Ohio State students are eligible for free MS Office 365. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.
- **CarmenCanvas access** –
You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen (<http://carmen.osu.edu>). To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:
 - Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass website for more information: <https://buckeyepass.osu.edu/>
 - Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
 - Download the Duo Mobile application to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi serviceIf none of these options meet the needs of your situation, contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.
- **Law School Admission Council LawHub Account.** Students will be required to create a free LawHub account on the <https://www.lsac.org> website with their name and email address (any services provided by LSAC that require payment and/or additional personal information are not required for this course).

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, contact the IT Service Desk, which offers 24-hour support, seven days a week:

- Self-Service and Chat: go.osu.edu/it
- Phone: 614-688-4357 (HELP)
- Email: servicedesk@osu.edu

Requesting Accommodations

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your level of ability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are ill and need to miss class, including if you are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of a viral infection or fever, please let me know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with Student Life Disability Services to request reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; or slds.osu.edu.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee ([Faculty Rule 3335-5-48.7 \(B\)](#)). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Title IX, Sexual Misconduct/Relationship Violence

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <https://civilrights.osu.edu/title-ix> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu.

Diversity

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity of people and ideas. We believe in creating equitable research opportunities for all students and to providing programs and curricula that allow our students to understand critical societal challenges from diverse perspectives and aspire to use research to promote sustainable solutions for all. We are committed to maintaining an inclusive community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect

among all members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach their own potential. The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment.

Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS), by visiting ccs.osu.edu, or by calling **614-292--5766**. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at **614-292-5766** and 24 hour emergency help is also available 24/7 **by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**.

Religious Accommodations

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the **Civil Rights Compliance Office**. (Policy: **Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances**)

COURSE OUTLINE AND ITINERARY

The practice of law is one of advocacy and engagement with a community. To gain the most out of this course students must actively participate by being prepared, paying attention, completing assignments on time, and contributing to discussions.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance will be taken daily. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of points. Excused absences, e.g. illness or other extenuating circumstances are permitted however students must email me directly. Course content and deadlines are subject to change – you are responsible for attending all classes to learn of such changes.

Grading

This course is graded on an A-E scale, with points earned based on the following:

Class Participation (4 points per session)	48
Field Trip Participation (6 points per trip)	12
Courthouse Essays (6 points per assignment)	12
Implicit Bias Reflection	6
Self-Assessment	6
Pre-Law Resume	6
<u>Attorney Interview and Write-Up</u>	10
Total	100

GRADING SCALE		
	A 93-100	A- 90-92
B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72
D+ 67-69	D 60-66	
	E 59 and below	

Assignments are due by the start of class on the due date and must be uploaded to the Carmen Drop Box as a Microsoft Word, Apple Pages, or Adobe PDF file. *Do not submit a Google doc or provide a link to an online file.* Carmen time-stamps all assignments:

- All assignments submitted on time are eligible for full credit; points may be deducted depending on the thoroughness of the work.
- Any assignments submitted late within 72 hours after the deadline may receive an automatic deduction of half of the available points and may be marked down further depending on the thoroughness of the work.
- Any assignments submitted more than 72 hours late may receive a zero.
- **Exceptions** – please reach out to me if circumstances outside your control interfere with your ability to submit work in a timely manner.

Assignments

- **Courthouse Essays (2)** 6 points each

What: Write a 2-3 page paper on each of the two field trips discussing what perceptions you had going in, what you learned from the experience, and what you took away from the field trip. This should not be a simple rundown of what you did/observed.

How: Submit via Carmen drop box.

Assignments continued

- **Implicit Bias Reflection** *6 points*

What: Take two of the 10-minute Harvard Implicit Bias tests (can be done as a guest – you will not need to create an account). Write a 2-3 page reflection paper based on what you learned about yourself from the tests and your thoughts on implicit bias in general/in society.

How: Submit via Carmen drop box.

- **Personal Self-Assessment Essay** *6 points*

What: Write a 2-3 page paper discussing your personal values and goals and how they align with your interest in going the law school / the legal world.

How: Submit via Carmen drop box.

- **Pre-Law Resume** *6 points*

What: Create a 1-2 page resume that highlights your accomplishments, responsibilities, and other information that will be relevant for law schools and others to consider.

How: Submit via Carmen drop box.

- **Attorney Interview and Write Up** *10 points*

What: Meet with an attorney for a 20-30 minute informational interview conducted either in-person or via Zoom. A phone interview is acceptable (though not ideal) however the interview cannot be conducted via email or online chat. Ideas and expectations for identifying/reaching out to attorneys will be discussed in class. After the interview write a 2-3 page paper discussing what you learned and how it comports with what you knew (or didn't or thought you knew) prior to the interview. The interview should not be recorded unless doing so for note-taking purposes only and then only with full approval from the person being interviewed. The final assignment is your write-up, not a transcript or recording of the interview itself.

How: Submit via Carmen drop box.

Field Trips (one trip to each location, two trips total during the semester)

Franklin County Court of Common Pleas (Cty Courthouse). Observe court proceedings and meet with judges, prosecuting and defense attorneys, and other court personnel.

Ohio Supreme Court (Ohio Judicial Center). Observe an oral argument, meet with attorneys, and explore educational exhibits.

Law School Exploration and Professionalism – ASC 2310
Spring Semester 2026 Syllabus

Week 1 (T 1/13) First Class, First Amendment

95% of legal matters are not resolved by a trial so it's important for advocates to work together to find solutions – how do we find common ground? This week will include an overview of the course and a discussion and interactive exercise focusing on lawyers as leaders and problem solvers.

Assignment(s) to complete by today's class:

- *Review this syllabus in its entirety*

Week 2 (T 1/20) The Legal Profession

Types of law and types of lawyers. You don't have to know yet what kind of law you want to practice but it helps to know what lawyers do. This week will be a continuation of the discussion on lawyers as leaders and advocates in communities.

Assignment(s) to complete by today's class:

- *Select a minimum of four practice area articles to read as provided by HG.org at <https://www.hg.org/practiceareas.html>*
- *Research and be prepared to explain (1) differences between criminal vs civil vs administrative law; and (2) differences between litigation and transactional practices*

Week 3 (T 1/27) FIELD TRIP – Trial Court – we will leave campus by 8:30AM

We will be traveling to the Franklin County Courthouse to observe court proceedings and meet with judges, attorneys, and other court personnel at the Court of Common Pleas.

Assignment(s) to complete by today's class:

- *Read the article at <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/courts/judicial-system/judicial-system-structure/>*
- *Read Chapter 11 of A Guidebook for Ohio Legislators at <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/assets/organizations/legislative-service-commission/files/chapter-11-the-judicial-branch-10021977.pdf>*

Additional suggested reading:

- *Ohio Constitution Article IV*

Week 4 (T 2/3) Professionalism and Executive Functioning

Accommodations and flexibility that exist in an academic setting do not translate to the professional setting (aka the courtroom). How are lawyers expected to do their work, communicate, and represent clients professionally while acknowledging their own personal lives and situations?

Assignment(s) to complete by today's class:

- *Submit Field Trip Reflection Essay*
- *Read article TBD – currently in conversation with the Dennis Learning Center to identify appropriate reading material*

Week 5 (T 2/10) A Dog, a Trespasser, and the Oxford Comma - Reading for Detail

“Skimming” materials is a sure fire way to fail or get fired. What does it mean to be a “user” vs. a “reader”? We’ll parse the meaning of existence (or at least a small part of it) using a statute from the Ohio Revised Code. We will also discuss the Attorney Interview assignment.

Assignment(s) to complete by today’s class:

- *Prepare a working document with a thorough list of attorney jobs/roles that interest you and why. This document will not be turned in but will serve as the foundation for eventually identifying an attorney for the Information Interview later in the semester.*
- *Read Beazley, Mary Beth, "Writing (and Reading) Appellate Briefs in the Digital Age" (2014). Scholarly Works. 1064 at <https://scholars.law.unlv.edu/facpub/1064>*

Week 6 (T 2/17) Cognitive Biases and Difficult Conversations

Implicit bias exists in language, behavior, impression, cultural interactions, everywhere. For lawyers to adhere to professional ethics they need to represent clients’ best interests and not damage a case due to their own assumptions or prejudices. So how do we recognize implicit bias and avoid it creeping into a professional context?

Assignment(s) to complete by today’s class:

- *Expand your working document of attorney roles by identifying law firms, non-profits, and government agencies where you might find attorneys in each field of practice.*
- *Read the Law/Crim section of Hu, X., & Hancock, A. M. (2024). State of the science: Introduction to implicit bias review 2018-2020. The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at <https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/state-science-introduction-implicit-bias-review-2018-2020>*

Week 7 (T 2/24) Critical Thinking and Analysis

Consider the media and politics we’re all exposed to – do you have the critical thinking skills to understand it all? How trusted are your sources? Can you spot misinformation?

Assignment(s) to complete by today’s class:

- *Complete a minimum of 2 of the Harvard Implicit Bias quizzes*
- *Submit Implicit Bias Reflection Essay*

Week 8 (T 3/3) FIELD TRIP – Supreme Court – we will leave campus by 8:30AM

Observe the oral argument for State of Ohio v. Hollis Bostick*, meet with attorneys from both sides of the case argued, and explore educational exhibits.

Assignment(s) to complete by today's class:

- Read the Oral Argument Preview at <https://www.courtnewsOhio.gov/cases/previews/25/0402/0402.asp#OA240458>
- Read either Appellant's Merit Brief at https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/pdf_viewer/pdf_viewer.aspx?pdf=966842.pdf&subdirectory=2024-0458\DocketItems&source=DL_Clerk or Appellee's Merit Brief at https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/pdf_viewer/pdf_viewer.aspx?pdf=970480.pdf&subdirectory=2024-0458\DocketItems&source=DL_Clerk

Additional suggested reading:

- The other Merit Brief

**An oral argument will be selected and reading materials assigned once the Supreme Court of Ohio announces the Spring 2026 docket. The case and materials above are from a Spring 2025 argument and are provided as an example for the purpose of this course proposal.*

Week 9 (3/10) Law School Application Process

An overview of the law school application itself and the timeline to prepare and complete the application. What are admission offices looking for and when do they want to see it?

Assignment(s) to complete by today's class:

- Submit Field Trip Reflection Essay

Week 10 (T 3/17) Spring Break

Week 11 (T 3/24) Writing I – Your Origin Story / Who You Are

Tell your story. You are considering going into an advocacy career where you will be advocating for clients, companies, communities, etc. How do you advocate for yourself? We will do a peer review of your self-assessment essay draft as a tool for writing your eventual law school personal statement. We will also discuss the nature of having others write statements on your behalf, aka letters of recommendation.

Assignment(s) to complete by today's class:

- Prepare your Self-Assessment Essay Draft and bring a printed copy to class. This version will be shared in-class for peer review; it will not be graded.

Week 12 (T 3/31) “The Numbers” and researching potential law schools

Your grades and the LSAT are considered by many to be the most important (but not the only) components of a law school application. We will discuss the role of the “numbers”, the nature of the LSAT, and how to conduct research on law schools based on profile.

Assignment(s) to complete by today’s class:

- *Submit your Self-Assessment Essay final version – this version will be graded.*

Week 13 (T 4/7) Writing II – What You’ve Done

In-class resume review / Addenda / Personal Statements

Assignment(s) to complete by today’s class:

- *Prepare your resume and bring a printed copy to class. This version will be shared for in-class for peer review; it will not be graded.*

Week 14 (T 4/14) TBA – To be used as needed

This week will be set aside to accommodate any changes to the course schedule whether due to courthouse availability (i.e. Supreme Court hearing calendar), current topics that merit discussion, or other.

Assignment(s) to complete by today’s class:

- *Submit your Law School Resume final version – this version will be graded.*

Week 15 (T 4/21) Final Week – In the Words of the Pros

Last class of the term. We’ll welcome a panel of guest speakers who will share their insights and experiences and take questions as they discuss the legal profession of today.

Assignment(s) to complete by today’s class:

- *Submit your Attorney Interview Write-Up*

Week 16 (T 4/28) Exam Week Reading Day - NO CLASS TODAY