

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Education and
Wellness, Legal and Protective Services
LEGL 1133 (Legal Writing)

Catalog Description:

This is a course that focuses on legal analysis and writing. Students are given hypothetical case situations, relevant cases, and statutes and they must identify and address the inherent issues. Students are expected to know the basic principles of grammar, punctuation, legal writing and citation. The course will include developing a legal argument and strategy and writing interoffice memoranda, case briefs, letters, and legal documents.

Credit Hours/Contact Hours/Load Hours:

3/3/3

Course Objectives:

- Be able to use critical thinking skills in his or her approach to paralegal study and assignment completion.
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills.
- Demonstrate a professional level of proficiency in the areas of grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Define and use legal vocabulary associated with an advanced level of legal writing.
- Be able to brief a case into its component parts, identifying the key facts, issues, holding, and rule of law.
- Be able to apply and discuss how a statute will apply to a set of facts.
- Be able to relate a given set of facts to case law and discuss if and how a case is applicable or if it can be distinguished from the hypothetical situation.
- Be able to present a written argument in an organized fluid manner with appropriate transitions and a logical support of ideas.
- Use correct citations with cases, statutes, and regulations.
- Write an interoffice memorandum of law given a hypothetical controversy, appropriate cases and statutes.
- Distinguish between advocacy writing and objective analysis.
- Write a persuasive letter or an informative letter to various individuals and entities.