

SPRING 2024
HIST 312: Professional Development in Law
Class meets on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:20 pm
1/22/2024 - 4/15/2024
Cullimore Hall Room 307

Instructor: Carla Guerriero
973-596-3284
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Office Hours: Mondays from 5:30-6:30 pm and by appointment

This is a 1-credit course designed to help students prepare for and successfully navigate the law school admissions process.

Learning Outcomes

| LEARNING OUTCOME | How it will be measured: |
|--|---|
| a) Effectively communicate with law school admissions committees and successfully navigate admissions process. | Participation; questionnaire; portfolio |
| b) Sufficiently reflect upon motivations and goals with regard to law school and the legal profession. | Participation; questionnaire; draft of personal statement; portfolio. |

Required Text

Anna Ivey, *The Ivey Guide to Law School Admissions 2020 Edition: Straight Advice on Essays, Resumes, Interviews, and More* (2020). A pdf file of the text will be provided by the instructor. Please do not share the pdf with anyone.

Additional readings may be provided by instructor.

Course Delivery

This course will meet in person, except for the class session on February 12th which will be via Webex. Course materials will be delivered via Canvas. Students are also expected to check their NJIT email accounts regularly for course updates and announcements.

Course Grade

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Class Participation (30%). Students with two or more unexcused absences will have their class participation grade lowered. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings.
- Brainstorming Questionnaire – Due February 12, 2024 (15%)
- Draft of Personal Statement – Due March 25, 2024 (20%)
- Law School Research - Due April 8, 2024 (10%)
- Final Portfolio – Due May 6, 2024 (25%)

The following grading scale will be used for all assignments and for final grade:
A=90-100; B+= 87-89; B= 80-86; C+=77-79; C=70-76; D=60-69; F=59 and below.

Final Portfolio

The final portfolio consists of:

1. List of law schools to which student plans to apply
2. Proof of LSAC registration
3. Proof of two completed LSAT Law Hub practice exams available for free at lsac.org. Choose two from this list: Test 71, Test 73, Test 90+, Test 93+.
4. Resume
5. Draft of personal statement
6. List of four possible recommenders
7. Optional: any diversity statements or addenda

Students will submit final portfolio via Canvas as ONE pdf file and will schedule a mandatory meeting with instructor via Webex or in-person. The final portfolio must be submitted at least 72 hours before the meeting. Both must be completed no later than Monday, May 6, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

Code of Conduct

- Students and instructor will demonstrate respect for others at all times.
- Students must be actively engaged in all class sessions and may not text, access social media, browse the internet, or engage in any other non-class related activity during class time.
- Students shall demonstrate honesty and integrity in the completion of all assignments and in the participation of the learning process. Students are required to know and follow the University Policy on Academic Integrity found here: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct - Reporting Requirement

Please note that it is the instructor's professional obligation to report all instances of academic misconduct to the Dean of Students including cheating, falsification, fabrication, and plagiarism. **Disciplinary actions may include a failing grade (F) and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the office of the Dean of Students at dos@njit.edu

Class Sessions

1. **Introduction - Monday, January 22**
2. **The Law School Admission Timeline - Monday, January 29**
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Foreword, Chapters 1 and 2
Participation: Listen to one episode the "I am the Law" podcast and be prepared to discuss it in class on 1/29 or 2/5. Link to podcast: <https://www.lawschooltransparency.com/podcasts/iatl/hosts/katya-valasek>
3. **The LSAT I - Monday, February 5**
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 3 and 4
4. **The LSAT II – Monday, February 12**
GUEST SPEAKER: Katya Valasek, Director of Prelaw Advising, LSAC
THIS CLASS SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE VIA WEBEX AT THIS LINK:
<https://niit.webex.com/meet/cjq>
Participation: Students are required to have cameras turned on for the entire class session, to participate fully, and to prepare at least one question for our guest speaker.
Assignment #1 Due: Responses to Ivey Brainstorming Questionnaire
5. **The Personal Statement I - Monday, February 19**
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 5 and 6
Reminder: Take **first** LSAT practice test via LSAC Law Hub. Keep a copy of your score.
6. **The Personal Statement II - Monday, February 26**
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 7 and 8
7. **The Personal Statement III - Monday, March 4**
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapter 9
- No class on Monday, March 11th due to Spring Recess!**
8. **Law School Recommendations - Monday, March 18**
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapter 10
9. **The Law School Resume - Monday, March 25**
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapter 11
Assignment #2 Due: Draft of Personal Statement
Reminder: Take **second** LSAT practice test via LSAC Law Hub. Keep a copy of your score.
10. **Law School Application Addenda- Monday, April 1**
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 12, 13, and 14
11. **The Basics of Legal Analysis: IRAC - Monday, April 8**
Required Reading: Columbia Law School Writing Center, *Organizing a Legal Discussion* (2022).
<https://www.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/2022-06/WC%20Handout%20IRAC%2C%20CRAC%2C%20CREAC.revised%205.22.pdf>
Assignment #3 Due: Law School Research
Participation: Be prepared to discuss at least one law school from your research in class.
12. **Course Wrap Up - Monday, April 15**
Recommended Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 15-19

ASSIGNMENT #4: The final portfolio must be submitted at least 72 hours before the meeting. Both must be completed no later than Monday, May 6, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.