

**SPRING 2025**

**HIST 312: Professional Development in Law**

Class meets on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:20 pm

January 27, 2025 - April 21, 2025

Location: CKB 220

Instructor: Carla Guerriero

973-596-3284/Cullimore Hall 331

[cjg@njit.edu](mailto:cjg@njit.edu)

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**

| <b>LEARNING OUTCOME</b>  | <b>How it will be measured:</b>                                       |
|--|---|
| 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 sessions on February 17<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, which will be via ZOOM. 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 10, 2025** (15%)
- Draft of Personal Statement – **Due March 24, 2025** (20%)
- Law School Research - **Due April 7, 2025** (10%)
- Final Portfolio – **Due May 12, 2025** (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 two completed LSAT Law Hub practice exams available for free at lsac.org. Choose two from this list: Test 140, Test 141, Test 157, Test 158.
3. Law School Resume
4. Draft of personal statement
5. List of four possible recommenders
6. Optional: any diversity statements or addenda that you would like me to review

Students will submit final portfolio via Canvas as ONE pdf file and will schedule a mandatory meeting with instructor via Zoom 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 12, 2025 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>.
- The use of any artificial intelligence (AI) tool is not allowed in this course.

## **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](mailto:dos@njit.edu)

## **Class Sessions**

1. **Course Introduction/Overview of Legal System and Sources of Law - Monday, January 27**
2. **The Basics of Legal Analysis: IRAC - Monday, February 3**  
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>
3. **The Law School Admission Timeline - Monday, February 10**  
Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Foreword, Chapters 1 and 2  
Assignment #1 Due: Responses to Ivey Brainstorming Questionnaire

**4. The LSAT I - Monday, February 17**

Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 3 and 4

**GUEST SPEAKER: Jacob Elser, Blueprint Test Prep, LLC**

**Jacob will visit our class to discuss the Blueprint LSAT prep course offered through NJIT.**

**THIS CLASS SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE VIA ZOOM AT THIS LINK:**

<https://njit-edu.zoom.us/my/carlaquerriero?pwd=NfSWL0n0SaB5eSgFNpfrYrTKogWBdD.1>

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.

**5. The Legal Profession – Monday, February 24**

Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 5 and 6

Participation: Listen to one episode of the "I am the Law" podcast and be prepared to discuss it in class today. Link to podcast:

<https://www.lawschooltransparency.com/podcasts/iatl/hosts/katya-valasek>

Reminder: Take **first** LSAT practice test via LSAC Law Hub. Keep a copy of your score.

**6. The LSAT II – Monday, March 3**

Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 7 and 8

**GUEST SPEAKER: Katya Valasek, Director of Prelaw Advising, LSAC**

**THIS CLASS SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE VIA ZOOM AT THIS LINK:**

<https://njit-edu.zoom.us/my/carlaquerriero?pwd=NfSWL0n0SaB5eSgFNpfrYrTKogWBdD.1>

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.

**7. The Personal Statement I - Monday, March 10**

Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapter 9

**No class on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> due to Spring Recess!**

**8. The Personal Statement II - Monday, March 24**

Assignment #2 Due: Draft of Personal Statement

Reminder: Take **second** LSAT practice test via LSAC Law Hub. Keep a copy of your score.

**9. Law School Recommendations - Monday, March 31**

Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapter 10

**10. The Law School Resume - Monday, April 7**

Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapter 11

Assignment #3 Due: Law School Research

Participation: Be prepared to discuss at least one law school from your research in class.

**11. Law School Application Addenda - Monday, April 14**

Required Reading: Ivey Guide – Chapters 12-14

**12. Course Wrap Up - Monday, April 21**

Required 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 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**