

Intro to the Law School Academic Experience

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1. Be goal-oriented



What are our goals for you?

KNOWLEDGE

Civil Procedure; Torts; Criminal Law; Contracts; Constitutional Law; Property; Other Bar Courses; Administrative Law Requirement

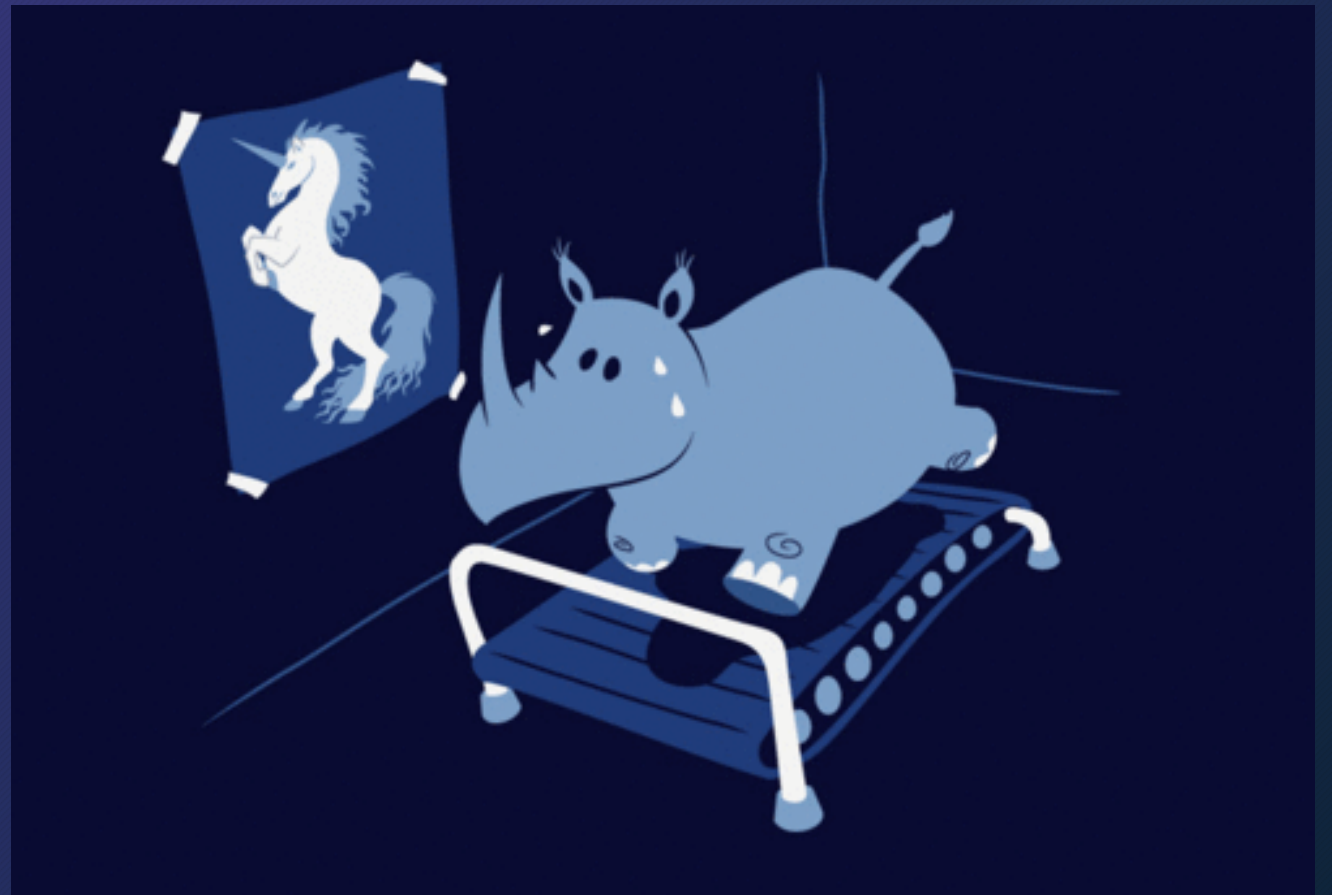
SKILLS

Legal Skills I and II; Upper Level Writing Requirement; Upper Level Skills Requirement; Clinics & Externships

VALUES

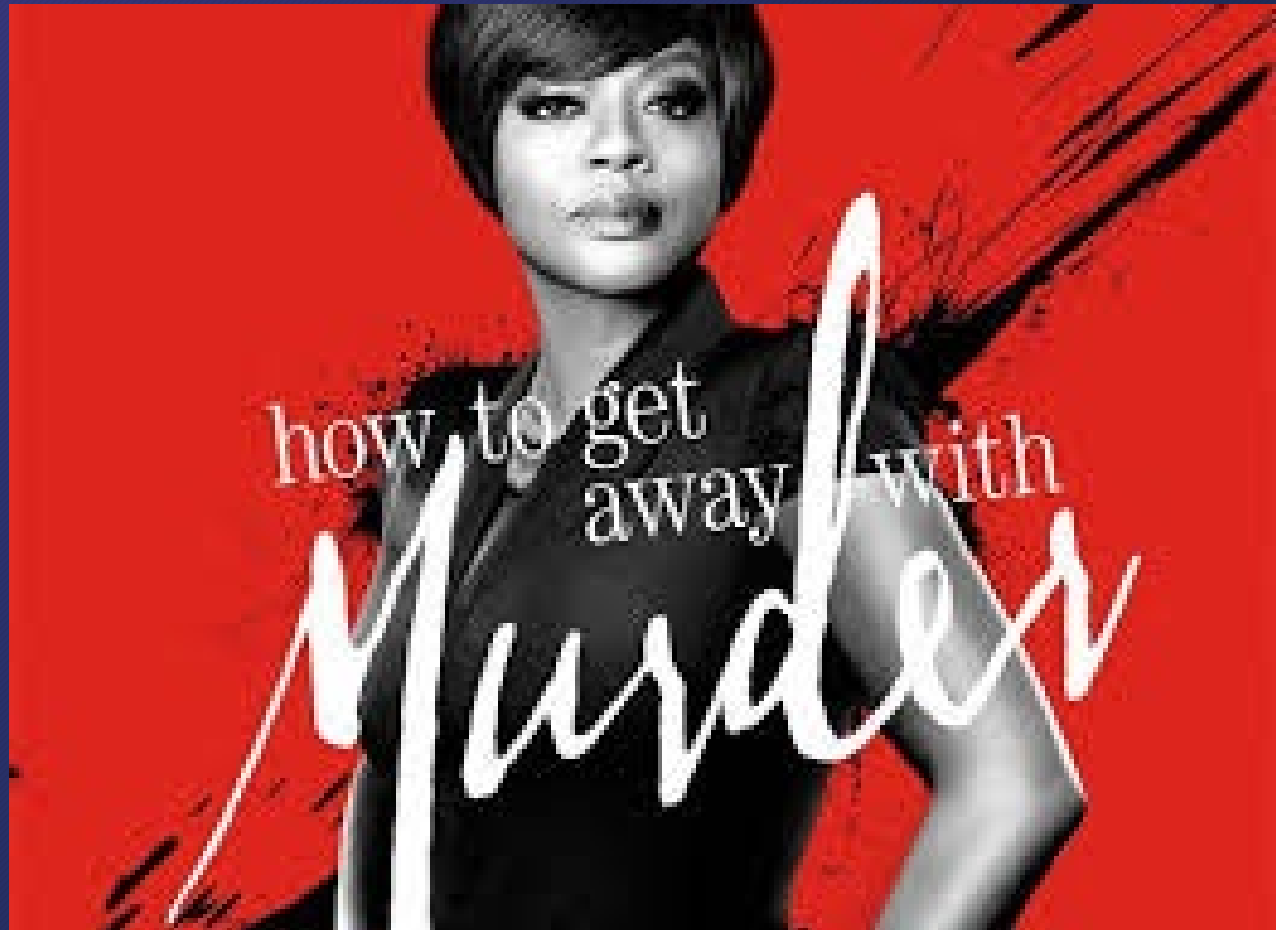
Professional Responsibility; Professional Development Credits

2. Set realistic expectations



“Day One and you’re unprepared”

- First Criminal Law class



What are our expectations of you?

- Prepare for and attend classes, whether in-person or on Zoom
- Respect your classmates
- Respect law school faculty and staff
- Academic honesty
- Good faith effort

Each academic credit = 55 minutes of classroom instruction + 2 hours of out-of-class work per week.

- 15 credit semester \approx 45 hours per week

Prepare, prepare, prepare...



By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.

~ Benjamin Franklin

3. Read critically



What is critical reading?

[It does NOT mean criticizing what you read]

- Reading for interpretation and understanding
- SQ3R: Survey, Question, Read, Recall, Review
- Engaging in what you read by asking yourself questions such as, *‘what is the author trying to say?’* or *‘what is the legal rule this court is applying?’*

Critical reading leads to excelling on law school exams because it sparks analytical thinking, legal reasoning and deeper understanding.

4. Shed lazy habits



5. Use the resources in front of you



Haub Law School Resources

- Dean for Student and Campus Affairs(Angie D'Agostino)
- Director of Student and Campus Affairs (Natalie Panzera)
- Registrar/Bursar (Josie Wolf)
- Academic Success Office (Danielle Kocal; Stephanie Desiato; Niccol Kording)
- Office of Career and Professional Development (Kapila Juthani)
- Director of First Year Legal Skills Program (Michelle Simon)
- Writing Specialist (Tamar Gribetz)
- Faculty Advisor (to be assigned)

First Year Legal Skills

- Prof. Michelle S. Simon, Faculty Director of First Year Legal Skills Program, msimon@law.pace.edu, Preston 324
- Spring semester: 3 credits
- Summer semester: 3 credits
- Small sections
- Numerous components

Components of First Year Legal Skills

- Meet twice a week with legal skills professor to learn predictive writing, persuasive writing, citation, research (legal skills syllabus, make sure to find your section of the course on “Classes”)
- Additional required classes on research, including Lexis and Westlaw training (legal skills syllabus and announcements by your legal skills professor)
- Legal Methods

Legal Methods

- Designed to help with the skills you need to be successful in your doctrinal courses and on exams
- Mandatory: 4 workshops and 4 classes in spring; 1 workshop and 3 classes in summer
- Taught by academic success professionals, not your legal skills professors
- Has its own syllabus and “CLASSES” page (note when it meets).
- Counts towards the credits and grade in Legal Skills I and II.
- Contact Prof. Desiato at sdesiato@law.pace.edu if questions about section.

Other Support

- Writing Specialist -Tamar Gribetz (tgribetz@law.pace.edu)
 - Conducts workshops over the year on writing mechanics such as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure.
 - Available to meet individually with students
 - Add “Writing Specialist” course on CLASSES in “Communities”
- Research Librarians - assistance with research
- Office of Academic Success - assistance with analysis

6. Develop a professional identity



7. Pay attention to detail



Lawyers must be detail-oriented

- Read Academic Rules closely
- Keep up with and read emails from Pace administrators and faculty
- Read syllabus for each course closely
- Follow instructions
- Follow-up
- Proofread all written communications

9. See the world through others' eyes.



10. Be good to yourself



Questions?

