

PUBA 760: Law for Public Administration

Required Text: Charles Szypszak, *Understanding Law for Public Administration* (2d ed. 2024)

Session	Topics	Due
1	What Is Law?	◆ Chapter 1
2	Constitutional Principles	◆ Chapter 2
3	Law Authority	◆ Chapter 3
4	Due Process, Equal Protection, and Civil Rights	◆ Chapter 4 *Locating Resources assignment due 24 hours before week 4 live session*
5	Speech, Religion, and Public Information	◆ Chapter 5
6	Property	◆ Chapter 6
7	Contracts and Companies	◆ Chapter 7
8	Employment	◆ Chapter 8 *Supreme Court opinion due 24 hours before week 8 live session*
9	Torts	◆ Chapter 9
10	Criminal Law and Procedure	◆ Chapter 10
11	Administrative Law and Procedure	◆ Chapter 11
12	Dispute Resolution and Managing Lawyers	◆ Chapter 12 *Law Analysis due 24 hours before week 12 live session*
13	Public Ethics Law	◆ Chapter 13 Ethics Exercise Report due 24 hours before week 13 live session
14	Final Exam	

Assigned Material: Materials must be studied prior to the class session for which they are assigned. You are expected to be prepared to discuss them.

Class Session Rules: Live sessions begin promptly as scheduled. Video must be enabled and the microphone ready to be turned on. The same exclusive attention and demeanor that are customary in a graduate school classroom are expected and required while online. Do not enable or allow other devices or activities that may require your attention.

Caution about Expectations: Legal learning involves delving into unfamiliar concepts and dissecting and absorbing unfamiliar ideas. You must call upon more than the skills with which you can find a quick and superficial answer. You must engage in an evolving dialog in which you are probing your assumptions, looking for contradictions, and finding new connections and patterns. This requires that you apply sustained, unbroken attention and that you question your existing conclusions. Learning of this sort takes serious time and effort. If you can engage in the kind of imperishable analytical thinking expected in this course, you will become better not only at understanding the law and legal process but also in your broader understanding.

Course Grade Calculation

Quizzes aggregate	10 percent
Locating resources assignment	10 percent
Participation	15 percent
Supreme Court opinion	15 percent
Law analysis paper	20 percent
Final exam	30 percent

All assignments must be submitted by the due date. Late submissions will be penalized, except in extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control, as determined in the instructor's discretion.

Quizzes

Multiple-choice quizzes must be completed prior to each live session. Each quiz has 12 questions. The quiz must be completed in one session and cannot be retaken. The quiz score for grade purposes will be the aggregate number of correct answers.

Responses to Dialog Questions

For most weeks, the assignment includes watching videos of students engaged in case analysis dialogs with the asynchronous instructor. After the video, a question is posed for a written response. The response should be one or two professionally written paragraphs applying the objective analytical approach emphasized in this

class. The responses will be a starting point for the live session discussions and must be uploaded at least 24 hours before the live session.

Group Activities

This course involves at least two group activities. After the torts class, you will meet and deliberate as a jury to determine a damages award based on a fact scenario. After the ethics class, you will meet as a group and determine a strategy to promote ethics within local government. You will be required to meet as a group and contribute in good faith to the discussion and work product. Your participation in self-organizing and completing the assignment is expected as it would be in a professional setting.

Class Participation

Class participation is based on responses to dialog questions, reflections and group assignments, and contributions to live discussions.

The law involves analytical thinking and weighing alternative reasonable viewpoints. In this class, you are expected to engage in an evolving dialog in which you are probing your own assumptions, looking for contradictions, and finding new connections and patterns. You also are expected to be thoughtful in developing and expressing your analysis and attentive to, and considerate of, other reasonable viewpoints.

Experience shows a close correlation between earnest class participation and the course grade. Engaging in analytical dialog greatly aids in learning how to think about law. Successful participation results from preparation and regular contribution to discussions by study of the assigned material and effort to apply the *objective analytical reasoning* approaches taught in the course. Positive contributions include those that earnestly respond to the instructor's questions, advance the discussion by presenting new ideas or insights, build on others' comments, or present a reasoned counterpoint to others' comments in a respectful way. Contributions that are not positive include those that are nonresponsive or unrelated to the point under discussion, are political arguments or criticisms, repeat points already made, or critiquing others' contributions in a nonanalytical way.

Papers

You will receive specific instructions about the papers. Questions about the papers must be asked during class sessions so that all students have the benefit of hearing the same information.

The Locating Resources assignment requires independently locating and appropriately identifying primary law. The Supreme Court Opinion assignment requires writing a draft opinion from the interpretive perspective of an assigned justice on a pending Supreme Court case, within a group of students assigned to the roles of particular justices. The Law Analysis requires the analysis of the supplied authority and the application of it to an assigned issue. On all assignments, you must work entirely independently, except as expressly allowed, and submit findings in the specified format. Consistent with how courts and agencies approach legal procedure in practice, *submissions that exceed length limits or otherwise do not materially comply with the instructions will be returned as unsubmitted.*

Final Exam: The final exam will be short-essay questions to test understanding and application of basic principles. Additional information will be provided during the course.

The honor code applies in all respects.