

PUBP 4609: Legal Practice Syllabus

3.0 credit hours, Fall 2026

Sections 89174

Thursday, 5:00 pm - 7:45 pm in Clough 125

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jared Bruff

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Office Hours: By appointment only. Please e-mail me with at least three times you are available to meet.

General Information

Description & Goals

In this course we will develop practical attorney/legal skills. We will read, analyze, and brief real-life legal cases and materials, practice drafting legal documents, and hear first-hand from attorneys working in the field.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

PUBP 3000: U.S. Constitutional Issues and PUBP 3610: Pre-Law Seminar are both pre-requisites for this course. There are no required co-requisites for this course.

Course Requirements & Grading

Grades for this course will be based on a cumulative point system. You will have the opportunity to earn 1000 total points for exams, case briefs, and class attendance and participation. The total points you've earned at the conclusion of the course will determine your final grade according to the grading scale below.

Grading Scale

Your total points earned will determine a percentage grade, and your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	Grade Range
A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	Below 60%

Extra Credit Opportunities

Extra credit may or may not be provided during the course of the semester at the sole discretion of the instructor. Any extra credit opportunities will be made available to the entire class.

Course Requirements & Grades

- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Final Exam - 20%
- Participation - 40%
- Mock Supreme Court Case Arguments - 10%
- Case Brief and Reflection Paper - 10%
- Extra credit available

Course Materials

Course Text

None.

Additional Materials/Resources

Additional required readings and course materials will be posted to Canvas.

If you are interested, I highly recommend you read SCOTUSblog regularly while taking this course, accessible at: <https://www.scotusblog.com/>. While it is not required reading, it will help you learn more about what is currently going on at the US Supreme Court, and we may occasionally discuss relevant postings in class.

Course Website

There will be a course website on Canvas. Canvas will be used for announcements, assignment submission, exams, grades, and for posting of other documents relevant to the course.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment or exam will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Attendance

Given the small size, once a week class meeting schedule, and interactive nature of this class, **attendance is taken each class period and is required.** Any requests for an absence to be excused must be made via e-mail to the professor either before or immediately after class. Excused absences are at the professor's sole discretion, and documentation may be required. Excused absences will only be granted in narrow circumstances that include, but are not limited to, Institute sanctioned absences, illness, jury duty, requirement for military service, religious observances, and death of a family member. It is the student's

responsibility to request that an absence be excused either before or immediately after the absence from class.

All absences not excused by the professor are unexcused absences. Note that job interviews, career fair attendance, conflicts with other on-campus commitments (tour guide, students orgs, etc.), trips, etc. are all considered unexcused absences. You are allowed **ONE** unexcused absence per semester with no penalty. This is to account for the fact that you may have an intractable conflict of the nature described in this paragraph come up during the course of the semester. For the second and subsequent unexcused absence, your final grade in the course will be lowered by one letter grade for each unexcused absence. (i.e. if you have two unexcused absences, the highest possible letter grade you can earn is a B, three a C, four a D, and five an F). Please note this is independent of the fact that your participation grade will also suffer from excessive unexcused absences as outlined in the class participation section above.

Georgia Tech's official attendance policy can be found at <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/> . In addition to the GT rules, it states "All students are responsible for obtaining an understanding of each instructor's policy regarding absences." Information about how to notify instructors when you need to miss class and what kind of documentation you should provide is at: <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/> .

Course Communications

I will communicate with you using only your Georgia Tech e-mail address, and you should communicate with me using my Georgia Tech e-mail address (above). All enrolled students have an e-mail account provided by Georgia Tech. This account is a student's official point of contact with the Institute, and you are expected to check it each school day. <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/3/>

I routinely send important class communications using Canvas announcements. Please make sure you have your Canvas settings adjusted so that announcements are delivered to your e-mail inbox when they are sent.

Collaboration & Group Work

Part of the fun of studying law is talking with your classmates about cases and the issues they raise outside of class. It's practically the favorite past-time of law students and law professors, too, and I encourage you to do so. Just make sure that when it's time to complete your case briefs and exams that your work is entirely your own, and that you are not sharing resources or work with your classmates or anyone else. The case briefs are to improve your own understanding, and the exams gives me a chance to assess and give you feedback on your analytical skills that are being developed through the course, so your work must be entirely your own.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at 404.894.2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Case briefs must be turned in by the beginning of the class period in which they are due, and Canvas' due date/time will reflect that. Late case briefs will not be accepted and a score of zero will be assigned if your brief is not received by the beginning of the class during which it is due. Extensions will not be granted. If you must be absent from class for any reason on the due date of a case brief, in general, you should e-mail the brief to the instructor before class. If you feel there are extenuating circumstances in a

particular situation making this impossible, please discuss with the instructor to see if there are any accommodations that can be made.

Exams will be made available as Canvas quizzes for a 24 hour period of time that will end at 5pm Eastern time on the date the Exam is listed on our syllabus. The exam is due in Canvas by 5pm on the date listed. Exams may only be made up in the case of documented, excused absences. If you feel you have extenuating circumstances, please speak with the professor as soon as possible, PRIOR to the exam.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Additional Resources for Students

I want to see you succeed not just in this course, but at Georgia Tech and during this time of your life in general. If you need assistance in the course, or in other areas, please don't hesitate to reach out for help. Resources to keep in mind if you're facing challenges while at Tech include the Dean of Students (<https://studentlife.gatech.edu>), the Counseling Center (<https://counseling.gatech.edu>), the GT Police (<https://police.gatech.edu>), Stamps Health Services (<https://health.gatech.edu>), and the LGBTQIA Resource Center (<https://lgbtqia.gatech.edu>). Your instructor has also completed LGBTQIA Safe Space training.

If you are having issues with housing, food insecurity, clothing, or other financial issues, please be aware of possible assistance available to you through the STAR Program (Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources). More details on the STAR Program are available at:

<https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/star-services>

Inclusion

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Course Schedule

The course schedule will be provided below will guide us through the semester. It may be necessary to tweak dates and readings, though any such change will be communicated to you prior to those classes/dates.

Dates for the midterm and final exams will not be changed.

No Legal Advice/No Attorney-Client Relationship

While your professor is an attorney, nothing expressed during this class, office hours, or any other interaction you may have with the professor in or out of class constitutes legal advice of any kind, and no attorney-client relationship exists between the professor and any student.