

2022 Summer Institute
Office of International Initiatives / Georgia State University
AL 2290: Legal English
July 4-29, 2022

Instructor: Professor Diana Coetzee
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Time: Monday-Friday, 9:00-11:20 a.m.; 2:00-4:20 p.m.
Location: TBD

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

AL 2290: Legal English is designed to improve your legal English skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking). Through a variety of activities (individual, pair, small group, and whole class), we will:

- Read, analyze, and take notes about different legal texts (cases, articles, law school textbooks)
- Analyze videos/films about various topics related to legal English
- Use the writing process to complete short assignments related to legal writing (pre-write, draft, share your writing with others, revise, edit)
- Practice strategies to avoid plagiarizing (such as paraphrasing and citing sources)
- Organize and give short presentations
- Participate in conversations and discussions
- Use legal vocabulary and structures in your writing and speaking

2. REQUIRED MATERIALS

LEGAL ENGLISH Textbooks:

- Reinhart, S. (2007). *Strategies for legal case reading and vocabulary development*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

In addition, we will use elements from the book from standard US Law courses:

- Currier, K., & Eimmermann, T. (2013). *The study of law: A critical thinking approach*. New York: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business.

You should also bring:

- paper and pens/pencils
- a folder or binder for handouts—bring to class daily
- a USB flash drive or e-storage system

3. COURSE GRADING

Your course grade will be computed as follows:

Class activities & homework.....	80%
Quizzes/Exams.....	20%
Final Presentation.....	20%

A passing grade is a C (73%) or higher. Letter grades have the following meanings:

A+	97-100%
A	93-96%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72% (not passing for required courses)
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

4. ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be given daily. For most assignments, you will receive a check plus (✓ +, well done with no/very few minor errors), a check (✓, acceptable work with some errors), or a check minus (✓-, incomplete or improvement needed). Late work is usually not allowed. If you are unable to complete work, please talk with the instructor as soon as possible.

5. FINAL PROJECT

In this course, you will have a final project. This will be a presentation about one aspect of law, contrasting the system you are familiar with the US system you are learning about at GSU. You will work on this project in class and also have a practice presentation that will allow your classmates and the instructor to provide feedback. Your final presentation will be video recorded, and it will take place on the final day of the program.

6. QUIZZES/EXAMS

Shorter quizzes or longer exams will assess your understanding of Legal English skills, strategies, and content. They will include vocabulary and grammar structures covered in class.

7. ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION

Attendance is essential for success. Administrators will be notified if you have 2 or more absences. In addition, be ready to work and learn with your classmates.

8. ACADEMIC HONESTY & PLAGIARISM

You must submit your own work and conduct yourself in an honest manner. One aspect of academic honesty is plagiarism. Plagiarism can include one or more of the following situations:

- a. Copying information from another student's work or from other printed materials and submitting that work as your own.
- b. Using other people's ideas, words, or data without properly documenting or acknowledging the outside source.
- c. Overusing outside sources without incorporating your own ideas.

This syllabus is a guide. Changes might be made by the instructor.