



INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE

LEG 230
Legal Writing

Effective Term
Fall 2024/Spring 2025/Summer 2025

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Part I: Course Information

Effective Term: Fall 2024/Spring 2025/Summer 2025

COURSE PREFIX: LEG 230

COURSE TITLE: Legal Writing

CONTACT HOURS: 3

CREDIT HOURS: 3

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE:

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the paralegal student with the skills necessary to effectively and efficiently analyze legal and factual issues and communicate that analysis through a variety of legal writing techniques.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course includes methods, techniques, and procedures for the research and preparation of legal memoranda, trial and appellate briefs, and trial notebooks.

PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:

(Credit level [LEG 132](#) Minimum Grade of C or Credit level [LEG 132](#) Minimum Grade of TC) and (Credit level [ENG 101](#) Minimum Grade of C or Credit level [ENG 101](#) Minimum Grade of TC)

***Online/Hybrid** courses require students to complete the [Distance Learning Orientation Video](#) prior to enrolling in an online course.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

The materials required for this course are included in **Cengage Unlimited**, a subscription that gives you access to **all your Cengage access codes and online textbooks** for \$129.99 a semester or \$199.99 for a year (These prices are for purchasing directly through Cengage. Prices may be higher if purchased through Barnes and Noble HGTC Bookstore.) No matter how many Cengage products you use, and for any class you are using them in, they are included in Cengage Unlimited, and the price stays the same. You can purchase access to Cengage Unlimited in the bookstore, or at <https://www.cengage.com/unlimited/>

NOTE: You only purchase Cengage Unlimited ONE TIME. This one purchase will cover each of the LEG courses that require Cengage materials.

Please visit the [BOOKSTORE](#) online site for most current textbook information.

Enter the semester, course prefix, number and section when prompted and you will be linked to the correct textbook.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Access to Desire2Learn (D2L), HGTC's learning management system (LMS) used for course materials.

Access to myHGTC portal for student self-services.

College email access – this is the college's primary official form of communication.

If students are planning to attend remotely, they will also need a working computer with a reliable internet connection and one that is equipped with a webcam and audio/speakers to communicate with the on-campus instructor and classmates.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION:

Students enrolled in online courses will be required to participate in a minimum of one (1) proctored assignment and/or one (1) virtual event to support student identification verification. Please refer to your Instructor Information Sheet for information regarding this requirement.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

As a matter of courtesy to other students and your professor, please turn off cell phones and other communication/entertainment devices before class begins. If you are monitoring for an emergency, please notify your professor prior to class and switch cell phone ringers to vibrate.

NETIQUETTE: is the term commonly used to refer to conventions adopted by Internet users on the web, mailing lists, public forums, and in live chat focused on online communications etiquette. For more information regarding Netiquette expectations for distance learning courses, please visit [Online Netiquette](#).

[Students who attend remotely should keep their microphones muted unless speaking.](#)

Part II: Student Learning Outcomes

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES and ASSESSMENTS*:

Module # 1: Legal Research and Citation Review

Materials Covered: Chapters 7 & 8

***Assessments:** Writing Assignment
Research Assignment
Test

Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe and perform the process of updating and validating legal research manually and electronically;
2. Utilize correct legal citation form for primary and secondary legal authorities in writing;
3. Explain and write using intricate citation forms, use of punctuation, quotation, legal signals and short form citation; and
4. Develop strategies and processes for conducting legal research projects for specific goals.

Module #2: Fundamentals of Writing and Effective Legal Writing

Material Covered: Chapters 14 & 15

***Assessments:** Writing Assignments
Case Briefing

Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply rules of grammar, punctuation, spelling and composition to write clearly and effectively communicate;
2. Assess audience, purpose, and message to dictate effective writing for legal and business stakeholders;
3. Dissect and analyze court opinions in legal briefing format used by the legal profession;
4. Discuss the importance of the briefing process to the skill of legal writing; and
5. Draft documents exhibiting the hallmarks of legal writing: precision, clarity, readability, brevity, and order.

Module #3: Legal Correspondence & Writing Steps

Material Covered: Chapters 16 & 19

***Assessments:** Writing Assignments
Research Plan
Case Briefing

Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe and use the basic elements of business and legal correspondence;
2. Draft legal opinion letter using results from research of legal issue and using appropriate writing style, tone and clarity to inform and educate the audience;
3. Draft legal demand letter using proper format, writing style and tone to persuade audience to whom letter is addressed; and

4. Research and analyze case law and statutory laws to apply in writing to unique factual situations.

Module #4: Legal Memoranda

Material Covered: Chapters 16 & 17 & Handouts

***Assessments:** Research Results & Outline
Legal Memoranda Assignment

Learning Outcomes:

1. Prepare research plan and memorandum outline based on factual scenario;
2. Draft a legal memorandum on research issue to objectively address legal and factual situation to be utilized by a paralegal's attorney in a hypothetical case; and
3. Convey information in writing in an objective, non-argumentative style in an internal legal memorandum.

Module #5: Legal Briefs

Material Covered: Chapter 18 & Handouts

***Assessments:** Trial Brief Assignment and/or Order Assignment

Learning Outcomes:

1. Compose an argumentative legal brief for hypothetical case directed to a trial judge and opposing counsel.

Draft a proposed Court order based on hypothetical argument in a legal matter to be submitted to a presiding judge.

****Students – please refer to the Instructor's Course Information sheet for specific information on assessments and due dates.***

Part III: Grading and Assessment

EVALUATION OF REQUIRED COURSE MEASURES/ARTIFACTS*:

Students' performance will be assessed, and the weight associated with the various measures/artifacts are listed below.

EVALUATION*

Westlaw Assignments	10%
Citation Assignments	10%
Correspondence	20%
Opinion Letter	10%
Demand Letter	10%
Legal Memorandum	20%

Trial Brief	20%
	100%

****Students, for the specific number and type of evaluations, please refer to the Instructor's Course Information Sheet.***

GRADING SYSTEM:

90-100%	A
80-89 %	B
70-79 %	C
60-69 %	D
Below 60%	F

I Course requirements are incomplete. Must be completed by deadline given by the Instructor or "I" converts to an F.

Grades earned in courses impact academic progression and financial aid status. Before withdrawing from a course, be sure to talk with your instructor and financial aid counselor about the implications of that course of action. Ds, Fs, Ws, WFs and Is also negatively impact academic progression and financial aid status.

The Add/Drop Period is the first 5 days of the semester for **full term** classes. Add/Drop periods are shorter for accelerated format courses. Please refer to the [academic calendar](#) for deadlines for add/drop. You must attend at least one meeting of all of your classes during that period. If you do not, you will be dropped from the course(s) and your Financial Aid will be reduced accordingly.

Part IV: Attendance

Horry-Georgetown Technical College maintains a general attendance policy requiring students to be present for a minimum of 80 percent (80%) of their classes in order to receive credit for any course. Due to the varied nature of courses taught at the college, some faculty may require up to 90 percent (90%) attendance. Pursuant to 34 Code of Federal Regulations 228.22 - Return to Title IV Funds, once a student has missed over 20% of the course or has missed two (2) consecutive weeks, the faculty is obligated to withdraw the student and a student may not be permitted to reenroll. **Instructors define absentee limits for their class at the beginning of each term; please refer to the Instructor Course Information Sheet.**

For online and hybrid courses, check your Instructor's Course Information Sheet for any required on-site meeting times. Please note, instructors may require tests to be taken at approved testing sites, and if you use a testing center other than those provided by HGTC, the

center may charge a fee for its services.

Part V: Student Resources



THE STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTER (SSTC):

The SSTC offers to all students the following **free** resources:

1. **Academic tutors** for most subject areas, **Writing Center support**, and **college success skills**.
2. Online **tutoring** and academic support resources.
3. Professional and interpersonal communication **coaching** in the EPIC Labs.

Visit the [Student Success & Tutoring Center](#) website for more information. To schedule tutoring, contact the SSTC at ssc@hgtc.edu or self-schedule in the Penji iOS/Android app or at www.penjiapp.com. Email ssc@hgtc.edu or call SSTC Conway, 349-7872; SSTC Grand Strand, 477-2113; and SSTC Georgetown, 520-1455, or go to the [Online Resource Center](#) to access on-demand resources.



STUDENT INFORMATION CENTER: TECH Central

TECH Central offers to all students the following **free** resources:

1. **Getting around HGTC**: General information and guidance for enrollment, financial aid, registration, and payment plan support!
2. Use the [Online Resource Center \(ORC\)](#) including Office 365 support, password resets, and username information.
3. **In-person workshops, online tutorials and more services** are available in Desire2Learn, Student Portal, Degree Works, and Office 365.
4. **Chat with our staff on TECH Talk**, our live chat service. TECH Talk can be accessed on the student portal and on TECH Central's website, or by texting questions to (843) 375-8552.



HGTC LIBRARY:

Each campus location has a library where HGTC students, faculty, and staff may check out

materials with their HGTC ID. All three HGTC campus libraries are equipped with computers to support academic research and related school work; printing is available as well. Visit the [Library](#) website for more information or call (843) 349-5268.

STUDENT TESTING:

Testing in an **online/hybrid** course and in **make-up exam** situations may be accomplished in a variety of ways:

- Test administered within D2L.
- Test administered in writing on paper.
- Test administered through Publisher Platforms (which may have a fee associated with the usage)

Furthermore, tests may have time limits and/or require a proctor.

Proctoring can be accomplished either face-to-face at an approved site or online through our online proctoring service. To find out more about proctoring services, please visit the [Online Testing](#) section of the HGTC's Testing Center webpage.

The **Instructor Information Sheet** will have more details on test requirements for your course.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

HGTC is committed to providing an accessible environment for students with disabilities. Inquiries may be directed to HGTC's [Accessibility and Disability Service webpage](#). The Accessibility and Disability Services staff will review documentation of the student's disability and, in a confidential setting with the student, engage in an interactive process to develop an educational accommodation plan.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to self-identify as needing accommodations and to provide acceptable documentation. After a student has self-identified and submitted documentation of a disability, accommodations may be determined, accepted, and provided. Students will need to reach out to the Accessibility and Disability Services staff each semester to renew their accommodations.

COUNSELING SERVICES:

HGTC Counseling Services strives to optimize student success through managing personal and academic concerns that may interfere with achieving educational goals. Staff are available to every student for assistance and guidance on personal matters, academic concerns and other areas of concern. HGTC offers free in-person and telehealth counseling services to students. For more information about counseling services, please reach out to counseling@hgtc.edu or visit the website the [Counseling Services webpage](#).

STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Horry-Georgetown Technical College shall not discriminate in employment or personnel decisions or in student admissions or in student decisions, or in all other segments of the College community on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, marital or family status, veteran status, political ideas, sexual orientation, gender identity, or pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including, but not limited to, lactation, in the educational programs and activities which it operates, and the college is prohibited from discrimination in such manner by applicable laws. Practices and requirements for nondiscrimination extend to the enrollment of students in programs and activities of the College and employment by the College.

All inquiries regarding the federal laws as they relate to discrimination on the basis of sex may be directed to Tamatha Sells, Title IX Coordinator, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107B, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5218, tamatha.sells@hgtc.edu or to the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. (Telephone: 800-421-3481/Email: OCR@ed.gov).

Other employee and applicant inquiries concerning the federal laws and their application to the College may be directed to Jacquelyne Snyder, Vice President, Human Resources and Employee Relations & the College's Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 200C, Room 205B, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5212, jacquelyne.snyder@hgtc.edu.

Other student and prospective student inquiries concerning the federal laws and their application to the College or any student decision may be directed to Dr. Melissa Batten, Vice President, Student Affairs, Section 504 & Title II Coordinator Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Building 1100C, Room 107A, 2050 Hwy 501 E, PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066, 843-349-5228, melissa.batten@hgtc.edu.

TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination.

HGTC prohibits the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and will provide students, faculty, and staff with necessary information regarding prevention, policies, procedures, and resources.

Any student, or other member of the college community, who believes that they have been a victim of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may file a report with the college's Title IX Coordinator or campus law enforcement*.

*Faculty and Staff are required to report these incidents to the Title IX Coordinator when involving students. The only HGTC employees exempt from mandatory reporting are licensed mental health professionals (only as part of their job description such as counseling services).

For more information, contact Tamatha Sells, Title IX Coordinator, Conway Campus, Building 1100C, Room 107B, 843-349-5218, tamatha.sells@hgtc.edu.

PREGNANCY ACCOMMODATIONS

Under Title IX, colleges must not exclude a pregnant student from participating in any part of an educational program. Horry-Georgetown Technical College is committed to ensuring that pregnant students receive reasonable accommodations to ensure access to our educational programs.

Students should advise the Title IX Coordinator of a potential need for accommodations as soon as they know they are pregnant. It is extremely important that communication between student, instructors, and the Title IX Coordinator begin as soon as possible. Each situation is unique and will be addressed individually.

Title IX accommodations DO NOT apply to Financial Aid. Financial Aid regulations do not give the College any discretion in terms of Financial Aid eligibility.

Certain educational programs may have strict certification requirements or requirements mandated by outside regulatory agencies. Therefore, in some programs, the application of Title IX accommodations may be limited.

To request pregnancy accommodations, please complete the [Pregnancy Intake Form](#).