Legal English Seminar
For Law Student and Professionals

Professor: Cheyne Kirkpatrick
Email: cheyne.kirkpatrick@du.edu
Office: English Language Center; 1958 S. Josephine St.
Office Hours: By appointment or after class
Course Location: Frank H Ricketson Law Building, Room #499 (University of Denver campus)
Class Time: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (with lunch break & other breaks)
Class Dates: July 15th – August 9th

Course Materials:

Textbooks (OPTIONAL):
Legal Terminology Explained by Edward A. Nolfi (2008)
Strategies for Legal Case Reading & Vocabulary Development by Susan M. Reinhart (2007)

Additional Readings, Case Briefings, and Sources: provided free for students on the Canvas class website.

Course Description:

This preparatory course is designed for LL.M. students and law professionals who are non-native English speakers. Through small group and online interactions, students will receive instruction and professional training in legal English language skills in the areas of legal writing, legal vocabulary, academic reading, and professional speaking and listening.

This experience will help pre-law students prepare for success in law school by building skills and confidence to write, speak, and listen in the context of the American legal system. Students will have opportunities to learn and apply their legal English skills both on campus and in the legal community by meeting lawyers and law professors on campus, becoming familiar with resources available to graduate students, observing real-world legal proceedings, and networking with current law students in the program.

Students will develop and apply legal English language skills in the contexts of learning about legal writing and analysis and about a variety of US common law topics.
Student Learning Outcomes & Goals

- **Academic Writing & Reading for Law School**
  - Legal English vocabulary
  - Legal English writing such as legal memorandums and business letters
  - Academic reading strategies for graduate law school
  - Library Research workshop

- **Academic Speaking and Listening for Law School**
  - Formal introduction (“elevator pitch”)
  - Small group and class discussion strategies
  - Professional presentation strategies
  - Listening & notetaking strategies

- **Law Content Topics & Vocabulary**
  - Law content topics
  - American legal culture
  - Legal vocabulary and vocabulary learning strategies
  - Online legal resources

- **Experiential Learning & Networking in the Legal Community**
  - DU Law School & Campus Resources
  - Guest lectures from legal professors and lawyers
  - Denver courthouse trip(s)
  - Networking and interviews with lawyers, legal professionals, and DU law faculty & alumni
  - International peer group teambuilding
## Course Schedule

*see Canvas class website for specific dates & assignments*

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<th>Week 1</th>
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| **July 15 – July 18** | • Greetings & Introduction from University of Denver & Sturm College of Law  
                        • DU campus tour, Sturm Law Library Tour, & academic resources for students  
                        • Legal Case Study Review & Analysis  
                        • Legal English Writing and Vocabulary for Law  
                        • Legal & Academic Speaking & Listening for Law  
                        • Academic Reading Strategies  
                        • Professional lunch & learn with University of Denver law professor(s)  
                        • Guest lecture from Sturm College of Law legal professional |

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| **July 22 – July 25** | • Law Library Research Workshop  
                        • Legal Case Study Review & Analysis  
                        • Legal English Writing and Vocabulary for Law  
                        • Legal & Academic Speaking & Listening for Law  
                        • Academic Reading Strategies  
                        • American legal culture  
                        • Professional lunch & learn with Denver area legal professional(s)  
                        • Experiential Learning: Visit to Denver Courthouse & Court Session |

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<th>Week 3</th>
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| **July 29 – August 1** | • Legal Case Study Review & Analysis  
                        • Legal English Writing and Vocabulary for Law  
                        • Legal & Academic Speaking & Listening for Law  
                        • Academic Reading Strategies  
                        • American legal culture  
                        • Professional lunch & networking with Sturm College of Law student alumni  
                        • Guest lecture from Sturm College of Law student alumni |

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<th>Week 4</th>
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| **August 5 – August 8** | • Legal Case Study Review & Analysis  
                        • Legal English Writing and Vocabulary for Law  
                        • Legal & Academic Speaking & Listening for Law  
                        • Academic Reading Strategies  
                        • American legal culture  
                        • Professional lunch & learn with DU professors  
                        • Experiential Learning: Visit to Denver Courthouse & Court Session  
                        • Farewell Celebration & Networking |

**August 10**  
**Sturm Law School LL.M Orientation at the University of Denver**
**Students with Disabilities**

If you qualify for academic accommodations because of a disability or medical issue please submit a Faculty Letter to me from **Disability Services Program (DSP)** in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities/medical issues. DSP is located on the 4th floor of Ruffatto Hall, 1999 E. Evans Ave.; 303.871. 2372/2278/7432. Information is also available online at [http://www.du.edu/disability/dsp](http://www.du.edu/disability/dsp); see the **Handbook for Students with Disabilities**.

**Religious Accommodations Policy**

University policy grants students excused absences from class or other organized activities or observance of religious holy days, unless the accommodation would create an undue hardship. Faculty are responsive to requests when students contact them in advance to request such an excused absence. Students are responsible for completing assignments given during their absence, but should be given an opportunity to make up work missed because of religious observance.

Once a student has registered for a class, the student is expected to examine the course syllabus for potential conflicts with holy days and to notify the instructor by the end of the first week of classes of any conflicts that may require an absence (including any required additional preparation/travel time). The student is also expected to remind the faculty member in advance of the missed class, and to make arrangements in advance (with the instructor) to make up any missed work or in-class material within a reasonable amount of time.

**STUDENT RESOURCES**

**University Writing Center**

As a DU Student, you receive free access and are encouraged to use DU’s Writing Center, which is located in Anderson Academic Commons Room 280. You can bring your written work to the Writing Center for a 45 minute, one-on-one consultation with knowledgeable writing consultants. I highly encourage you to take advantage of this resource; talking with others about your writing will help you create better papers, and, in the process, help you become a better writer. Trained University Writing Center staff members are available to consult with you one-on-one at any stage of a writing project.

To Schedule an Appointment at the Writing Center:
1) Go to [http://myweb.du.edu](http://myweb.du.edu) and login
2) Select the "Student & Financial Aid" tab
3) Click on the "Writing Center" menu
   - Or: Call 303.871.7456

**Center for World Languages and Culture (CWLC): English Speaking Tutoring**

This service is available for free for international students. Student tutors are available to help you with any of your language skills and needs. This is located in Anderson Academic Commons.