

LAW&R I
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Professor Campagna ¹

Core Grammar for Lawyers is an online self-instructional learning program that will give you practice in fundamental grammar conventions as well as advanced grammar issues that are specific to legal writing. The entire first year class will be participating in this program with the goal of ensuring that you will all be able to write proficiently in this course and in your work as a lawyer.

Below are the details as to how you will use *Core Grammar for Lawyers*:

1. Purchase a one year subscription for \$ 30.00. Go to: <https://www.cap-press.com/coregrammar/purchase.php> and fill out the first page of the Purchase Form. Select "New York" for the state and "Hofstra Law School" for the school. On the second page (the payment page), there is a box that says "If you have an Access Code (optional), enter it here." Our Access Code is **HOFSS2016**. After you enter this code and complete this page, the reduced pricing option of \$ 30.00 will appear. Complete the rest of the form, verify your information, and create your own username and password.
2. Activate your subscription. When you activate your subscription, enter this exact Class Code (which is unique to our section): **316-157-4464**. Do not borrow a Class Code from anyone else or you will enroll in the wrong section. If you have already purchased and activated your subscription, you may add your Class Code by going to "My Account" and selecting "Edit Account Information." I will be able to monitor your work on this program through this Class Code.
3. Log-in at <http://coregrammarforlawyers.com>. Click on the link on the home page called, "Bookshelf," and launch the Pre-Test. Do not opt out of the Pre-Test. **You must complete the Pre-Test before our class on Monday, August 29.** The Pre-Test has 96 questions and typically takes 45 – 75 minutes to complete. Do not consult outside resources when you take the Pre-Test. You will not be "graded on" the Pre-Test. Your failure to take it and complete it *by the due date* stated here, however, will cause you to lose 5 points (1% of the course points).

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Once you have taken the Pre-Test:

Regardless of how you score on the Pre-Test, try not to be too discouraged or too confident. This is the primary benefit of using *Core Grammar for Lawyers*: by engaging in the interactive lessons that the program selects for you, individually, based on your Pre-Test, you can advance your knowledge from your personal starting point. *One study of the program showed that law students who engaged in the lessons experienced, on average, over 20% improvement from their Pre-Test score to their highest Post-Test score.*

You are required to complete the lessons that are provided for you and then take the Post-Test when you are finished. There are 24 total lessons, but the program will automatically exempt you from lesson topics for which you score 100% on the Pre-Test.

Work on the lessons throughout the semester. Each lesson will take 20 – 40 minutes. I strongly recommend that you work on these units sooner, rather than later, because your writing will improve with improved grammar. There is no time like the present to get started on *anything* in the law! It *always* takes more time than you imagine. **You must complete the lessons and the Post-Test no later than the last day of classes for the Fall semester, Monday, December 5, by 8:00 pm.** ² **Failure to do so will result in an automatic deduction of 15 points (out of a class total of 500 points) on your grade.**

How will Core Grammar impact my final grade?

Your actual numeric scores on the Pre-Test and Post-Test are not calculated into your course grade. As stated above, you must take the Pre-Test, complete all of the 24 lessons provided to you (with the exception of ones on which you scored 100% on the Pre-Test), and complete the Post-Test (which you can take up to 8 times). There is no specific grade that you are required to obtain. However, **you must continue to take the Post-Test until you have received a higher score than you received on the Pre-Test.** All 1L students will be participating in this program in an effort to bring their grammar skills up to professional standards. The law is a learned profession. Your reader (judges, supervising attorneys, clients) will be unimpressed – *in the extreme* – by poor grammar in your written communication to them.

Sanctions for failing to comply with Pre- and Post-Test dates are set forth above. These sanctions are not subject to appeal due to the substantial notice provided and in the interest of those students who do comply.

² Note that our class actually ends before Thanksgiving. You will have turned in your final memo and final research assignments before Thursday, December 5. We have provided this later date mostly to help you “tie a few things up” at the end of the course if you need the time. Waiting until the very end of a writing course to do the grammar units defeats their purpose, needless to say. Do yourself a favor and get them done as soon as possible.