



# Some Information About the Exam

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## Exam Information

- The syllabus said a lot about the exam, but it hedged somewhat because of the anticipation that covid and other things going on at the administrative level might possibly affect how the exam could be administered.
- But I have clarity at this point to provide more specifics.
- Next week, I hope to release an “exam prospectus,” a document with additional details on how the exam will be structured and how I recommend studying.
- But for now, here’s more information in these slides.

#### Exam Information

- We will have what the syllabus calls a “normal exam.”
- Please look at Syllabus § 10 and what it says with regard to the exam – including what applies for a “normal exam.”
- There’s a huge amount of information disclosed in there.

#### Exam Information

#### Format

- Part I of the exam (worth 2/3 of the exam grade) will be two hours in duration and will consist of multiple choice questions – approximately 50 or so. This Part I portion of the exam will be totally closed-book, with no materials allowed and no scratch paper.
- Part II of the exam (worth 1/3 of the exam grade) will be essay. It will have a total duration of 1.5 hours, divided up as follows: (1) a Reading Outlining Period of 30 minutes, and (2) an Exam Writing Period of 60 minutes. This Part II portion of the exam will be open-book with materials limited to paper-based notes and books – but no sharing. You can use a computer (tablet, laptop) locked down with exam software to type your response. No ebooks, no accessing electronic files, no accessing web, internet, etc.

#### Exam Information

### Regarding Details on What You Are Allowed

- *Can you use headphones?*
- *Can you have food?*
- *Can you have a watch?*
- *Can you have tabs and binders for your paper-based notes for the open-book Part II essay portion?*
- **All of these questions are answered with the information in Syllabus § 10-5. I will include the bullet-pointed information there in the exam instructions. So please look at that.**
- If you still have questions after looking at that, I'd be grateful to get those questions now by email so I can try to answer them in writing in the exam prospectus.

#### Exam Information

### Some Pitfalls to Avoid

- Make sure you comply with all exam instructions!
- That includes allowed materials, obeying time limits, not disassembling exam booklets, etc.
- Do not omit to put your exam ID number everywhere it is required, and make sure you use the number you've been assigned for this semester.
- Do not omit turn back in the exam booklets, answer sheets, scratch paper, etc. exactly as instructed and when instructed.
- I am very strict about all that stuff.

## Some Study Tips

- Use my Exam Archive! It is very extensive. Doing old essays and released multiple-choice questions is likely your best bang-for-the-study-hour bargain.
  - [http://ericejohnson.com/exam\\_archive/](http://ericejohnson.com/exam_archive/)
  - You can outline the old essays you don't have time to do fully.
  - This is great study-group stuff: Compare your results with others to see what they got.
- Read my tip sheets on exam technique! I've written two on essays, one on multiple-choice. They give you detailed advice on how to succeed.
  - (Look in the Exam Archive. They're at the top.)

## Some Key Study Tips

- For multiple-choice, don't "go with your gut" and finish early. Be diligent and analytical. Note that I try hard to avoid tricky questions. If you know the law, I *want* you to get the right answer. Work the questions with that in mind.
- For the essay, I don't give points for mere recitation of law. I also don't give points for reciting facts. Rather, I reward *legal analysis*. That means mixing **law** and **facts** to create **legal conclusions**. Say "because" and/or "therefore" a lot to ensure you're showing your reasoning. See my "making purple" analogy in my *Tip Sheet on How to Write a Law School Essay Exam*.
- I strongly suggest you make and use a "menu outline" or "attack outline" – a concise list of what you've learned this semester that you can bring to bear on the essay. I say more about this in the *Tip Sheet on How to Write a Law School Essay Exam*.