

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY**  
**LGL 126 - LEGAL WRITING (3 CR.)**

**Course Description**

Studies proper preparation of various legal documents, including legal memoranda, letters, and pleadings. Involves practical applications. May include case and appellate briefs. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

This course is designed to acquaint the student with basic forms of informative and persuasive legal writing, including casebriefs, memos, pleadings, motions, and briefs in support of motions or appeals.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites**

Prerequisites: LGL 110, LGL 125, and successful completion of ENG 111 or the permission of division.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- understand the difference between informative and persuasive legal writing
- recognize various types of legal documents and understand their purposes
- draft legal casebriefs, pleadings, office memoranda and briefs for use in trial and appellate courts
- understand and use correct legal citation form
- understand how precedent is used to support written arguments
- combine legal research and legal writing skills to produce a simple research memo or brief

**Major Topics to Be Included**

- types of legal writing
- functions of legal documents
- principles of clear legal writing
- citation form
- briefing a case
- informative office memos
- persuasive writing: briefs in support of motions, trial and appellate briefs
- pleadings and interrogatories
- contracts and settlement agreements

**Extra Topics Which May Be Included**

Students may be asked to draft other types of legal documents, such as wills, deeds, opinion letters, corporate bylaws, or proposed jury instructions.