

# STUDY STRATEGIES REFRESHER

**Please Sign In:**



# 1L Spring Semester

## Key Differences

This semester is very challenging

- Arguably most difficult semester of law school
- Additional work and/or commitments
- Condensed exam period

This is not your first rodeo

- Adapt your study plan and process based on experience last year

# Study Aids: Active Learning Tool

## DO

- Incorporate feedback you obtained from last semester (self-assessment, exam reviews) to adjust your study routine and materials
- Focus on the big pictures – identify key concepts with important details
- Personalize your study aids to your learning style & tailored to your class in preparation for the final exam
- Ask for assistance if you need it

## DON'T

- Create a complete script of class organized by cases
- Rely on the outlines of others
- Wait until the very end of the semester

# Effective Study Habits

What study habits or tools were **most** effective for you in your first semester?

What study habits or tools were **least** effective for you in your first semester?

What are you doing to maintain what worked and change what didn't?

How will you incorporate feedback from exam reviews into how you study and take exams?

**Keep the final exam in  
mind when studying and  
outlining**

# Creating a Study Plan

## Establish a "Big Picture" Plan

- Keep end of semester in mind
- "Firm" dates (Exams, Deadlines)

## Plan out week-to-week

- Fill in the big picture plan with the day-to-day
- Outlining
- Reviewing and Memorizing Outlines
- Practice Exams

**NOW**

# Day-to-Day and Week-by-Week

- Work on your outlines throughout the semester and review them as the semester progresses
- Structure your outlines/study materials to help prepare you for exams
- Things to include:
  - Rules and Elements of Law
  - Cases/Case Blurbs
  - Class Notes
- Issue Checklist or Attack Outline

# “Comprehensive Indexed Summary”



Study Guide

Learn  
Review  
Expert



Reference Guide

# DIY

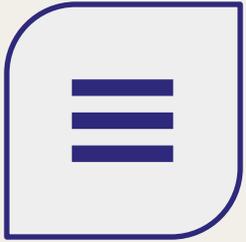
## Do It Yourself

- **Helps you memorize** – even if exam is open book, you must memorize law and be able to use it quickly on the exam
- **Provides focus** – once you are done with the outline, study from that. Put books, notes, etc. on the shelf and focus on what is knowable for exam
- **Final synthesis** – taking your notes, briefs, secondary sources and creating a document that encompasses YOUR understanding of the law

# Avoid these Mistakes

- Starting too late
  - Process takes time. Make sure you leave yourself enough time to complete outline and work with it before the exam
- Procrastination
- Failing to create and follow a disciplined schedule
- Not using your time effectively
- Underestimating the time commitment
- Passively retyping information
  - Outlining is an active process. You need to be thinking about creating hierarchies, synthesizing rules, and checking your work
  - Do not just create a list of information
- Believing that reading and attending class is sufficient
- Not asking questions
- Taking shortcuts
- Failing to complete practice exams
- Creating ineffective outlines

# Different Options



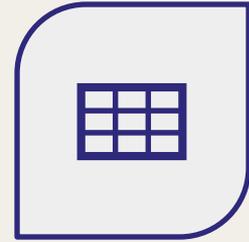
PROCESS BASED  
APPROACH



CHECKLIST



PUNCH LIST



CHART

**Don't underestimate the power of practice problems as a means of reinforcing your understanding of the material and developing your outline**

# Practice Exams

- Short hypotheticals or practice problems
  - You can incorporate earlier in the semester
  - Great way to test your understanding as the class progresses
  - Write out answers to hypos discussed in class
- Professor's Past Exams
  - Plan for longer time blocks later in the semester
- Self-Assessment
  - Review and compare your answer to model answers or rubrics
  - Cross-check your outline and rule checklist to make sure you addressed everything
    - Update or restructure your outline/checklist to make sure it's serving you for exams

# Check Your Work

- Wrap up your outline with enough time for you to use it on practice exams
- Ask yourself:
  - Is my outline helping me learn?
  - Does my outline help me work through problems/past exams?
  - Do I understand what I wrote?
  - Do my synthesized rules make sense?
  - Can I paraphrase the rules?
  - Can I give an example that satisfies the rule & one that does not?

# Law School Big Picture

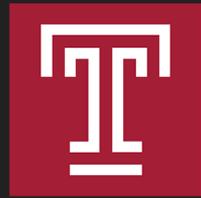
- You are inundated with information. How do you sort through it all?
- Important upcoming events and law school benchmarks:
  - Upper-Level Course Registration: **Late March/Early April**
    - 1L Day General Advising and Registration Information Session: **March 9, 2026**
  - Exams: **April 29 – May 11, 2026**
  - TLR/TICLJ Write-On: **After Exams**
  - Summer Internships
- Have you met individually with CSPD and Student Services?

**QUESTIONS?**

**Please Sign In:**







Temple  
University

Beasley School of Law