

A photograph of a modern university building with large glass windows and concrete walkways. The scene is filled with lush green trees, and the sun is shining brightly through the foliage, creating a warm, golden glow. In the foreground, there are green patio umbrellas and outdoor seating areas.

Conducting Classes

Russell Gold, Bainbridge-Mims Professor of Law

Note: All views expressed here are my own. I don't speak on behalf of my institution.

How much law teaching have you done?

None

1 or 2 semesters

2-4 semesters

More than 4 semesters

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How much law teaching have you done?

None

0%

1 or 2 semesters

0%

2-4 semesters

0%

More than 4 semesters

0%

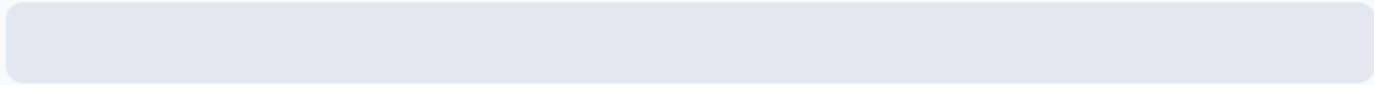
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How much law teaching have you done?

None



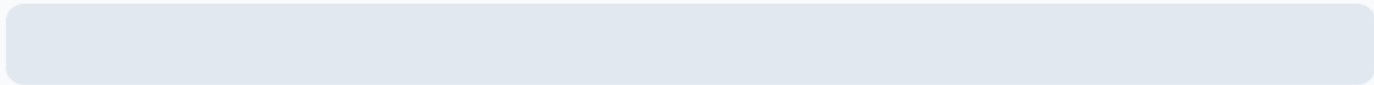
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1 or 2 semesters



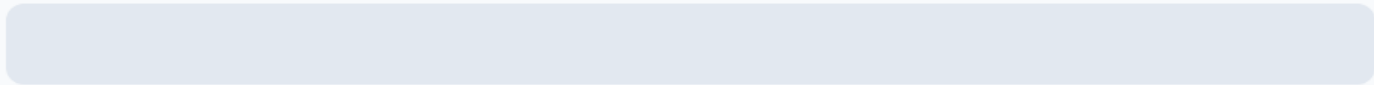
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2-4 semesters



0%

More than 4 semesters



0%

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What do you hope to get out of today's session about conducting classes?

Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

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Building your class dynamic

- Show your students that you care
 - Questionnaire before the semester
 - Learn names quickly and use them
- Lead with student engagement
 - Get them participating before they think about whether they should participate



Preparing for class

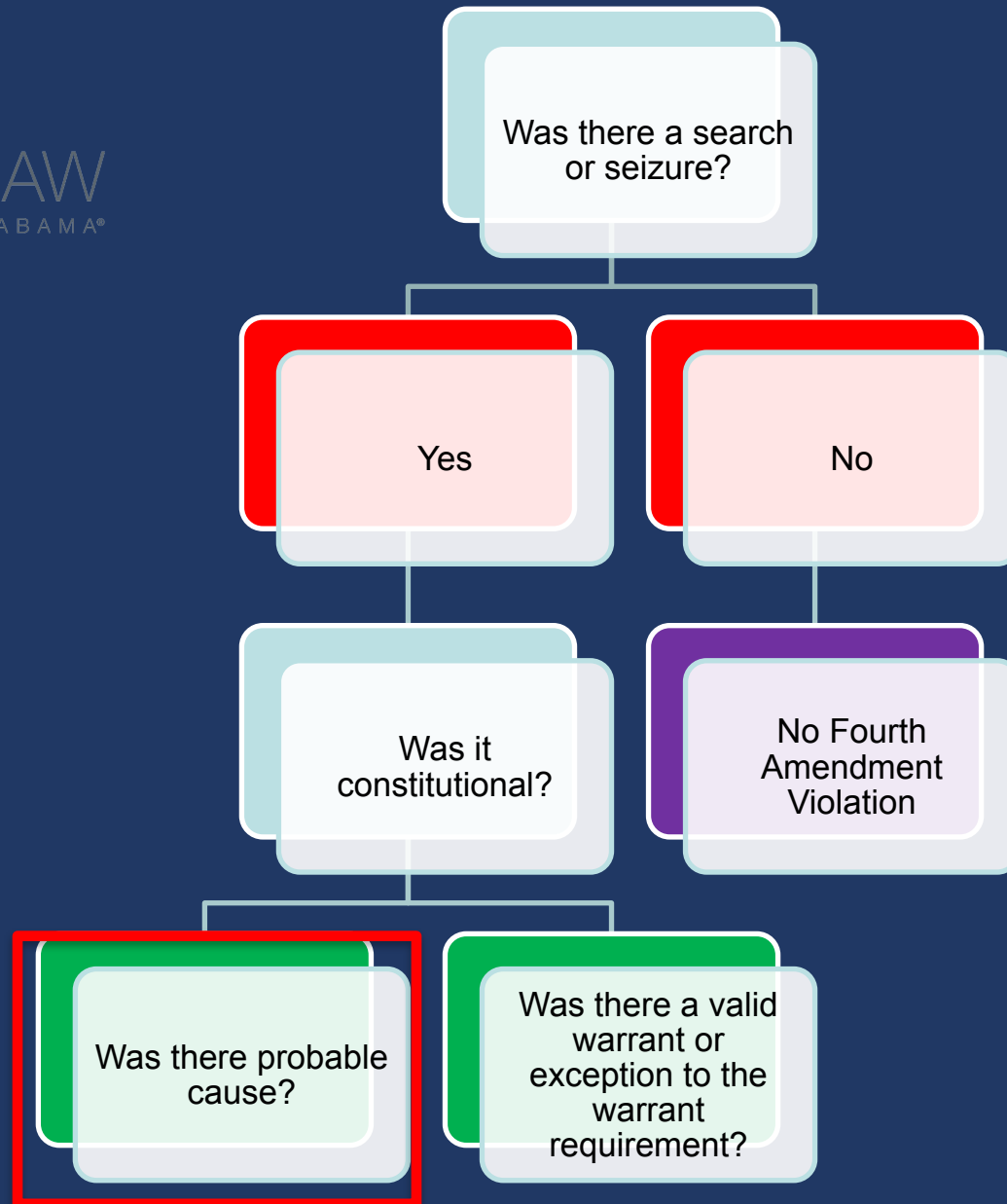
- Have clear goals for the class session—What do you want students to understand or be able to do?
- Know what topic comes next
- Know whether it's ok for some content to spill over to the next class

Starting class

- I like to play music before class starts, but that may be unusual
- Start class by reminding students where you are in the course and what content in that unit you have already covered as a mini-review



Introduce Probable Cause



Government usually needs both →

Confessions and Interrogations: Sources of Law



Should you cold call?

- I think so
- Pure cold call or panel system?

Should you cold call?

- **Pure Cold Call vs Panel System**

- **Pure Cold Call:** Keeps students alert, may create anxiety
- **Panel System:** Predictable, allows more focused preparation on particular days

- **Tradeoffs**

- Balance between broad engagement and student comfort

What do you think the other students in the room are doing when you call on one student?

Feeling relieved that you didn't call on them

Spacing out or doing something on their laptop

Paying careful attention

All of the above

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0%

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0%

All of the above

0%

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Maintain attention with active learning techniques

- Every 12-15 minutes attention will wane, unless you re-engage students
- Notice the polling question I just used
- Plan something every 12-15 minutes; don't only try to read the room to see if the students need it



Active Learning Techniques

- There are many, but I especially like...
 - Talk to your neighbor or
 - Think-pair-share
- Polling questions to:
 - Apply what we've been learning or
 - Ask for their view (*i.e.*, did the Court get this one right?)



Give students a way to evaluate their learning

- Written assignments are amazing but very time intensive, especially hard for folks with another full-time job
- Poll Everywhere for multiple-choice questions applying the doctrine
 - Works well near end of each class
 - But can also be a great way to bring attention back in during class



Here's an example

Officer stops a car for speeding and notices an Uber sticker on it. Car has two people--driver and a backseat passenger. Officer asks driver for permission to search car; driver agrees. Officer finds drugs in backseat. Who does Officer have PC to arrest?

Driver

Passenger

Both

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What is one thing that you learned or took away from today's session so far?

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How to end class

- Ask students to think about what they learned today. You saw how I do that. Then...
- Summarize and organize the big-picture takeaways from the day's doctrinal content

How to use PowerPoint

- Regularly but not heavily
- Slide for each case with an image to make it memorable
- Text of a statute to look at together
- Analytical tools that you make – outlines, flow charts
- Recap slides



Post your slides

- I tell students I'll post the slides and then do, meant to take off pressure from being stenographers
- Some downside risk because it might memorialize any mistakes
- But I think it's worth the tradeoff

For the Criminal Law and Procedure folks

- Join AALS Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law sections
- Listservs might be helpful, and...



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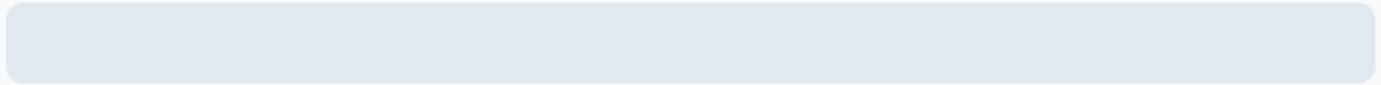
Shared Teaching Materials for Criminal Justice Related Courses ▼



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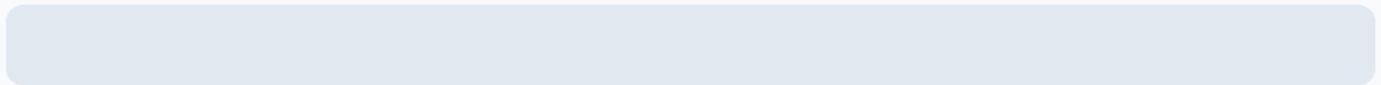
Do you (or will you) teach online?

Yes



0%

No



0%

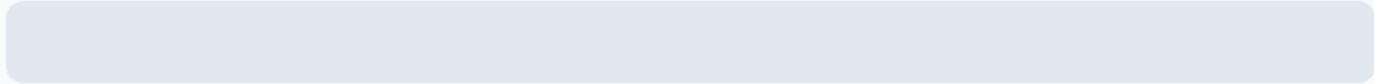
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For those who teach online, in what modality do you teach?

Synchronously



0%

Asynchronously



0%

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