Structured Study Group (SSG) Program F.A.Q.

What is SSG? No matter what your academic or professional background, learning to learn in law school is a huge transition. The Structured Study Group (SSG) Program enhances and expands your understanding of 1L subjects and provides opportunities to actively apply what you learn in class. These skills are CRITICAL for performing well on law school exams! In bi-weekly structured study sessions, highly-qualified upper-division students ("Supplemental Instructors" or "SIs") work with first-year students in a cooperative and supportive environment to facilitate learning in the areas of Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, and Contracts in the Fall, and Criminal Law and Property in the Spring. General law school academic success strategies are addressed in Law School 101 sessions (drawing from the Foundations of Law School Learning on the reverse). SI's also provide one-on-one support to students in 1L classes.

Can't I just study more? You'll study plenty anyway. SSG helps you study smarter, not just harder.

Can't I just use study aids? Limited use of reputable study aids can help with major concepts, but SSG will show you how to *apply* them – more importantly, how *your professor* wants you to apply them on an exam.

Is it ok if I don't participate? SSG is purely voluntary, and is meant to reinforce, enhance, and supplement the learning you are already doing. Some students find their stride without participating in SSG. If you find what works for you in another environment, that's fine! Try a few sessions early on, or go back closer to exams for extra preparation.

I got a copy of the outline from the top student in Contracts from last year. Why bother with SSG? Having the best outline doesn't mean you'll be able to write the best exam. In fact, the process of creating your own outline is the most effective way to learn and understand the material. Later in Fall semester, SIs will provide helpful guides for creating an outline that reinforces your learning.

What if the way I learn best isn't the way law professors teach? Your supplemental instructors are preparing presentations to help you understand your own learning style, and to give you practical tips for adjustments you can make to get the most out of the law school teaching environment.

Determine your learning style at: http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html.

When are SSG sessions held? You'll have two SSG sessions per week, which will be incorporated into your 1L Section Google calendar. You'll also receive emails from your SSG instructors to confirm when and where your first sessions will be held (usually second or third weeks of class).

What if I can't make it to every SSG session? Your student instructors can provide you with materials or notes by request. Some also post session materials on-line (via TWEN) or distribute by email.

More questions? Email to: lawdos@umn.edu