

## **Legislation (#309), Professor Julia L. Ernst**

Welcome to Legislation! In preparation for our first class, please read the following materials:

1. PLAIN ENGLISH FOR DRAFTING STATUTES AND RULES by Robert J. Martineau and Robert J. Martineau, Jr. (2012): pp. iii, vii-xii (Forward, Table of Contents)
2. Article IV of the North Dakota Constitution (<http://www.legis.nd.gov/constitution> )
3. Article I of the U.S. Constitution (<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution>)

For our first class, please think about how the provisions establishing the legislative branch in the North Dakota Constitution and in the U.S. Constitution are similar and are different. Consider how the structure of each legislative branch might contribute to—or detract from—its 1) efficiency and 2) effectiveness. If you were writing these constitutions, what changes would you have made to the provisions establishing the legislative branch?

Please also think about several potential paper topics on which you may be interested in writing for this course, specifically regarding a problem with (or gap in) the current law and a proposed legislative solution at either the federal or state level. You do not need to have fully developed a topic yet—just think about issues in which you might be interested. Also, please ensure that your tentative paper topics are not issues on which you have conducted research and/or writing in the past, whether for school, work, etc.—this is your opportunity to explore an exciting new area of law. Have fun, and I look forward to seeing you in our first class!