University of Idaho College of Law
Introduction to Legal Research (LAW 821)
Fall 2018
Syllabus

Stacy Etheredge, JD, MA, MLIS – Interim Director, Law Library
Associate Professor of Law

Law Library, Room 215
Phone: (208) 364-4558
Email: stacye@uidaho.edu

Section 5: Monday, 10:30am – 11:20am, Room 325
Section 7: Monday, 12:30pm – 1:20pm, Room 136

This syllabus is an evolving document that may be revised based on instructional, student, or instructor needs. Any revisions will be announced and posted. Please read the syllabus carefully, as it sets out the requirements and expectations for the course.

Course Overview

This course introduces legal research materials and techniques. Students will explore the American legal system and structure, case research, using digests to locate and refine case research, federal and state statutory research, administrative law (rules and regulations and how to locate them), secondary sources (e.g., legal encyclopedias and review articles), citators (i.e., verifying case validity), state-specific legal research, and electronic research.

Learning Outcomes

Anticipated learning outcomes include a student being able to:
- Understand the basic structures of the American legal system and how that system is related to resources used in legal research
- Identify the appropriate legal research resource for performing a basic research task
- Construct a research strategy and use that strategy to find and synthesize legal information to answer a basic research question
- Understand how to effectively and efficiently use the major online legal research systems

Communication and Posting of Materials

Materials and information for this course will be posted on the course’s TWEN webpage (via Westlaw). Please register as soon as possible, at https://lawschool.westlaw.com/twen/ (make sure you register for the correct Section). If you have not already created your Westlaw login, use the Westlaw registration key that was sent to you via email before classes started.

Texts and Materials

Readings

The weekly reading assignments in this class are critical as they lay the foundation for what will be discussed in class and covered in the weekly assignments. Questions on information presented in the readings will be in the assignments.

Assignments and Evaluation

This is a one-credit graded course, subject to the College of Law’s grading policy. Grades will be based upon the following assignments and percentages:

- Eight assignments – 50%
- Final Project – 50% (This will not be a formal, extensive research paper, but a written assignment of less than ten pages that will be graded primarily on research quality)

Assignments are due at the beginning of the next class period that follows the class period when they are handed out. Any assignment submitted late will receive a 5% point reduction of total assigned points, per day. If you cannot attend class on a day that an assignment is due, please inform the professor as soon as possible so that avoidance of this penalty can be discussed.

The Final Project will be posted on TWEN on Friday, November 16; it is due on the last day of the semester, November 30, by 8pm. If the Final Project is submitted late, it will receive a 10% point reduction of total assigned points, per day.

Submitting Your Work and Plagiarism

Print copies of each assignment will be handed out to students at the end of the relevant class, and will also be posted to TWEN as a Word document. You can either handwrite or type your answers, but all assignments must be turned in to the professor in print hard copy. The due dates for assignments are noted in the Course Schedule section (below), and will also appear on each assignment. Assignments are due at the beginning of class, on announced due dates.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. Your work must be your own, original, and properly attributed if quoted or sourced. There are no group assignments in this course. Any student determined to have submitted plagiarized work will be referred to law school administration for possible disciplinary action.

Preparation, Attendance, and Participation

You are required to read the assigned reading materials prior to each class, attend class regularly and promptly, participate in class discussions and exercises, and complete all required assignments and projects. Laptops and tablets are allowed for use during class for class-related purposes only, with the professor reserving the right to disallow them if it is determined that students are using them inappropriately.

ABA and College of Law attendance policies are in effect; class attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Please be prompt, as there is a lot of material to cover in class and late arrivals can cause disruptions. Please try to resolve attendance conflicts or issues before a class is scheduled to meet. Absences will be allowable for illness, but if such an illness requires you
to miss a significant number of classes, please discuss your circumstances with the professor as your health permits. All personal issues will be kept confidential, unless it is necessary to discuss the situation with the law school administration.

Non-weather related class cancellations will be announced via email.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: August 20</td>
<td>Research Strategies and Choosing Search Terms</td>
<td>Sloan, Chs. 2 and 11; &quot;How to Read a Legal Opinion: A Guide for New Law Students&quot; (via TWEN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: August 27</td>
<td>Introduction to the Legal System, Types of Authority</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 1 Assignment 1 handed out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: September 4 (Makeup class, see Note below)</td>
<td>Case Research</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 5 Assignment 1 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4: September 10</td>
<td>Case Research (Continued)</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 5 Assignment 2 handed out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5: September 17</td>
<td>Citators</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 6 Assignment 2 due Assignment 3 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6: September 24</td>
<td>Statutory Research</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 7 Assignment 3 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7: October 1</td>
<td>Statutory Research (Continued)</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 7 Assignment 4 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8: October 8</td>
<td>Federal Legislative History Research</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 8 Assignment 4 due Assignment 5 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9: October 15</td>
<td>Federal Administrative Law Research</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 9 Assignment 5 due Assignment 6 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10: October 22</td>
<td>Secondary Sources Research</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 4 Assignment 6 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11: October 29</td>
<td>Secondary Sources Research (Continued)</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 4 Assignment 7 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12: November 5</td>
<td>State-Specific Legal Research</td>
<td>Readings TBA Assignment 7 due Assignment 8 handed out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note Regarding Class for Week Three:
Due to the Labor Day holiday, there is no class on Monday, September 3. Class for Week Three will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 3:00pm – 3:50pm, in Room 313. It will be a joint class for both Sections 5 and 7.

Required Disclosures

Credit Hours for Coursework

In accordance with ABA Standard 310, the College of Law awards one credit hour for experiences that are reasonably designed to involve 50 minutes of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week, or at least the equivalent amount of work for academic activities including simulation, field placement, clinical, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

The Course requirements outlined above with respect to materials and assignments, in my professional judgment, are complex enough in nature that it is expected that the amount of out-of-class time it will take students to complete the assignments will meet the rule.

Center for Disability Access and Resources (CDAR) Reasonable Accommodations Statement

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. Ideally, students in Moscow and Boise should meet with CDAR by the end of the first week of class to assess if any accommodations are needed for courses and/or examinations. All accommodation requests are then submitted by CDAR to Dean Dodge for final approval. CDAR serves as the sole evaluator of medical documentation and determines reasonable accommodations on a per semester basis. The College of Law does not have the authority to evaluate or grant disability accommodations without CDAR first submitting a recommendation. You may contact CDAR by:

- Calling 208-885-6307
- Emailing cdar@uidaho.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Assignment/Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 13: Nov 12</td>
<td>Electronic Legal Research</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 10 Assignment 8 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13: Nov 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Project posted on TWEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14: Nov 26</td>
<td>Electronic Legal Research (Continued); Class Wrap-up, Evaluations</td>
<td>Sloan, Ch. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14: Nov 30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Project due by 8pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to seek a disability accommodation, and until an accommodation is approved by CDAR and Dean Dodge, no student will be entitled to receive any accommodations. To learn more about CDAR, visit its website at http://www.uidaho.edu/current-students/cdar. Moscow students may also visit CDAR in suite 127 of the Pitman Center. Please review the College of Law Catalog and Student Handbook for more information on the disability accommodation process.

Recording Class Sessions

Students may not electronically record classes unless they have the express consent of the instructor, except where the Dean of Students has allowed recording as a disability accommodation pursuant to a recommendation by CDAR. Recording classes without the instructor’s express consent violates the Honor Code. Students recording classes as a disability accommodation must follow procedures set down by CDAR. Students who are unable to attend class for reasons of illness or other exigencies must receive permission from the instructor before classes are recorded on their behalf. Contact the Law Library for recording equipment and information on recording procedures.

Civility

In any environment in which people gather to learn, it is essential that all members feel as free and safe as possible in their participation. To this end, it is expected that everyone in this course will be treated with mutual respect and civility, with an understanding that all of us (students, instructors, professors, guests, and teaching assistants) will be respectful and civil to one another in discussion, in action, in teaching, and in learning.

Should you feel our classroom interactions do not reflect an environment of civility and respect, you are encouraged to meet with your instructor during office hours to discuss your concern. Additional resources for expression of concern or requesting support include the College of Law Dean of Students (jdodge@uidaho.edu), the University Dean of Students office and staff (885-6757), the UI Counseling & Testing Center’s confidential services (885-6716), or the UI Office of Civil Rights & Investigations (885-4285).