Please Note: The schedule below, including assignments, is tentative and subject to change.

**Instructor:**
Avery Le  
Holland Hall, Room 175C (in library)  
(352) 273-0712  
averyle@law.ufl.edu

**Class Schedule:**
Tuesdays, 11:00-11:50am  
HOL 270

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 3:00-5:00pm or by appointment

**Course website:**
Accessible through UF e-Learning: [https://elearning2.courses.ufl.edu/portal](https://elearning2.courses.ufl.edu/portal)

**Textbook:**
MARK K. OSBECK, IMPECCABLE RESEARCH: A CONCISE GUIDE TO MASTERING LEGAL RESEARCH SKILLS (WEST, 2010).

Other readings assigned will be available for download via the course website.

**Course Schedule:**
Legal Research is a two-semester course consisting of 14 classes in total. The first 7 classes will be taught in the Fall of 2015 and the remaining 7 classes will be taught in the Spring of 2016.

**Course Objective:**
The objective of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles of legal research. Students will learn how to formulate a research plan; identify and consult secondary sources such as legal encyclopedias; interpret legal citations; locate and update relevant primary legal materials; and assess research progress to determine next-steps.

**Grading:**
The components of the final grade for the course are listed below:

- Attendance/Participation: 5%
- Assignments: 35%
- "Midterm": 20%
- Final Exam: 40%

**Assignments:**
Assignments will be posted on the course website (in the “Assignments” tab) after class. The due date for each assignment is 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, before class. **Assignments submitted after the due date will receive feedback, but not any credit (recorded as an automatic zero).** Students must work individually on assignments, unless otherwise indicated. I will not take any questions (in person or via e-mail) about assignments after **Friday at 5pm.**

Please save your homework assignments as Microsoft Word documents and label the file accordingly: **LastName_Assignment#_Semester.doc** (ex. Smith_Assignment#1_Fall.doc)
Participation:
Participation points are determined by attendance, preparation for class, and participation in class.

Attendance will be taken each class. Missing 3 classes without prior notice will result in referral to Student Affairs.

Final Exam
The final exam is an essay exam that will test your ability to synthesize the research skills you learned and apply them to a hypothetical situation. It will be administered at the end of the Spring 2016 semester and graded anonymously on a curve.

Core Competencies Assessment
The core competencies assessment is a pass/fail measurement of skills that all students must possess to successfully complete the course. It will be administered at the end of the Spring 2016 semester. The results of this assessment will not be incorporated into your final grade. But, you must successfully pass this assessment to take the final exam and receive credit for the course. The core competencies assessment tests the following nine (9) core competencies:

1. Demonstrate the ability to interpret contemporary legal citations (the ability to identify a citation and its jurisdiction).
2. Given a legal citation to contemporary U.S. statutes and case law, demonstrate the ability to find the full text of the case or statute.
3. Given a statute, demonstrate the ability to use annotated statutes to find cases interpreting the statute.
4. Given a case, demonstrate the ability to determine whether a holding in a specific case is still good law.
5. Given a legal topic, demonstrate the ability to identify secondary sources that would prove valuable in researching that topic.
6. Using the Topic & Key Number and Headnote systems, demonstrate the ability to search for a case in a specific jurisdiction.
7. Demonstrate the ability to create a research plan.
8. Demonstrate the ability to find dockets, briefs, complaints, etc.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of legal information finding tools and methods (e.g., terms and connectors searching, natural language searching, indexes, annotations, and legal classification systems such as headnotes), and the ability to identify their strengths and weaknesses.

Disability Accommodation:
Students requesting accommodation must register with Student Affairs, who will provide documentation of the need for accommodation.

Academic Honesty and Code of Conduct:
Students must adhere to the UF Honor Code and the UF Conduct Code.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Schedule</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Orientati... | ▪ Introduce course website  
▪ Review syllabus  
▪ Get to know each other | Read for Tuesday’s class (see below) |
| For Friday, Aug. 14 | **Week 1**  
For Tuesday, Aug. 18 | ▪ Formulate a Research Plan  
▪ In-Class Exercise #1  
▪ Read Osbeck pgs. 5-16.  
▪ Review the “Step 1: Formulate a Research Plan” PowerPoint located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Formulate a Research Plan” folder.  
▪ Watch this YouTube video explaining the concept of precedence: [http://youtu.be/QOfTQ6va4U0](http://youtu.be/QOfTQ6va4U0)  
**Before Class**  
**Assignment**  
Complete Assignment #1: Formulate a Research Plan & Secondary Sources, located in the “Assignments” tab of the course website. |
| | **Week 2**  
For Tuesday, Aug. 25 | ▪ Formulate a Research Plan (cont’d)  
▪ Begin In-Class Exercise #2  
▪ Review the “Step 1: Formulate a Research Plan” PowerPoint located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Formulate a Research Plan” folder.  
▪ Read the blog post by Joshua Auriemma on Boolean Searching: “How I got lazy as an attorney and how you can avoid it” under the “Formulate a Research Plan” folder.  
**Assignment**  
Finish In-Class Exercise. |
| | **Week 3**  
For Tuesday, Sept. 1 | ▪ Consult Secondary Sources  
▪ Homework Assignment #1  
**Due at Beginning of Class**  
▪ Read Osbeck pgs. 17-27, 109-111.  
▪ Review the “Step 2: Consult Secondary Sources” PowerPoint located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Consult Secondary Sources” folder.  
▪ Watch training videos on Westlaw and Lexis for secondary sources.  
▪ Optional: Read additional article posted under “Resources” in the “Consult Secondary Sources” tab, by Barbara J. Busharis & Suzanne E. Rowe.  
**Assignment**  
Complete the Assignment #2: Secondary Sources, located in the “Assignments” tab of the course website. |
| | **Week 4**  
For Tuesday, Sept. 8 | ▪ Find Primary Sources (Statutes & Cases)  
**Homework Assignment #2  
**Due at Beginning of Class**  
▪ Read Osbeck pgs. 28-37, 40-43, 125-130, 137-138.  
▪ Review the “Step 3: Find Primary Sources” PowerPoint located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Find Primary Sources” folder.  
▪ Watch the video tutorials located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Find Primary Sources” folder.  
**Before Class** |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>For Tuesday, Sept. 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Expand Case Law Research through Digest/Headnote Systems  
• **Homework Assignment #3 Due at the Beginning of Class** <br>*NOTE: There will be a one-hour Lab in the Library this week; Time TBD (In-Class Exercise #3)* | **Assignment**  
Complete Assignment #3: Primary Sources, located in the “Assignments” tab of the course website.  
**Before Class**  
• Read Osbeck pgs. 47-51, 119-122.  
• Review the “Step 4(a): Expand Your Research” PowerPoint located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Expand Your Research” folder.  
• Watch the video tutorials located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Expand Your Research” folder. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>For Tuesday, Sept. 22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Update Case Law Research through Citator Services | **Assignment**  
Complete Assignment #4, Part 1: “Expand Your Research” located under the “Assignments” tab of the course website.  
**Before Class**  
• Review the “Step 4(b): Update Your Research” PowerPoint located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Update Your Research” folder.  
• Watch the video tutorials located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Update Your Research” folder. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>For Tuesday, Sept. 29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Assess Research Progress  
• Talk about Midterm  
• **Homework Assignment #4 Due at the Beginning of Class** | **Assignment**  
Complete Assignment #4, Part 2: “Update your Research” located under the “Assignments” tab of the course website.  
**Before Class**  
• Review Osbeck pgs. 54-63.  
• Review the “Step 5: Analyze & Organize Your Research” PowerPoint located in the “Resources” tab of the course website under the “Analyze & Organize Your Research” folder.  
• Come to class prepared to identify cases you found through your research that you will likely use for your Legal Writing Memorandum.