Legal Research § W
LAW 5803 Section 0274
Spring 2017

Instructor
Rachel Purcell
Holland Hall Office 184L (in the library)
Purcell@law.ufl.edu
(352)273-0705

Class Schedule
Time: Friday, 9:30am – 10:20am
Location: Holland Hall 285B

Office hours: Tuesdays 3pm-5pm (Reference desk), Thursdays 3pm-5pm (Office) & Wednesdays 5pm-7pm (Reference desk)

Course website
Accessible through UF Canvas: https://ufl.instructure.com/

Required Textbook

Course Description
Legal research is a two-semester class, with 14 total classes. You will have 7 classes in the Fall and 7 classes in the Spring totaling one credit for both semesters. The course is designed to complement your Legal Writing class.

Course Objectives
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.

Course Expectations
• Attend class and be on time.
• Turn in assignments on time.
• Come to class prepared and actively participate in classroom discussions and activities.
Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final grade for the course will be given at the end of the spring semester. During the spring semester, students will receive grades for individual assignments. A midterm was administered in the following week after the last class in the fall. Your grade for class participation is measured over both semesters.

Assignments
Assignments will be posted on the course website (in the “Assignments” tab). The due date for each assignment is **11:59 p.m. the Tuesday following class**. Full credit for assignments will be given to those who demonstrate a good faith effort and turn assignments in on time. Students must work individually on assignments, unless otherwise indicated.

Please put your name at the top of the page and save your homework assignments as Microsoft Word documents labeling the file accordingly: 

_LastName_Assignment#_Semester.doc (ex. Smith_Assignment#1_Spring.doc)_

Final Exam
The final exam — administered in March — is an essay exam that will test your ability to synthesize the research skills you learned and apply them to a hypothetical situation. The final exam will be graded anonymously using a curve. More information about the final exam will be discussed during class and there will be a review session the week before the exam.

The law school policy on delay in taking exams can be found at: [http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#12](http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#12)

Core Competencies Assessment
The core competencies assessment is a pass/fail measurement of skills that all students must possess to successfully complete the course. This assessment will be administered in February. The results of this assessment will not be incorporated into your final grade. You must successfully pass this assessment to receive credit for the course. The assessment may be retaken if necessary. More information about the core competencies assessment will be discussed during class and there will be a review session the week before the assessment.
Participation
The participation grade is determined by attendance, preparation for class, participation in class, and overall effort to complete the weekly assignments, including contacting the instructor when you encounter difficulties with the assignment.

Attendance
Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. **Missing three classes without prior notice will result in referral to Student Affairs and possibly being dropped from the course.** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Student Course Evaluations
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/).

UF Law Grading
The law school grading policy is available at: [http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#9](http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#9)

Academic Honesty and Code of Conduct
Students must adhere to the [Student Conduct & Honor Code](http://www.law.ufl.edu/student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#9).
## Tentative Schedule (Spring 2017)
*(Subject to change with advance notice by Professor Purcell)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Before Class*</th>
<th>Homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong> January 13</td>
<td>Review of Five Steps Boolean Operators Federal Jurisdiction</td>
<td>Revisit our Canvas course and read the Spring Syllabus posted.</td>
<td><strong>Homework Exercise #7</strong> (due at 11:59m on 1/24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong> January 20</td>
<td>Formulating Research Plan</td>
<td><a href="#">Osbeck, 83-104</a></td>
<td><strong>Read for next class</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong> January 27</td>
<td>Secondary Sources – national and state specific</td>
<td><a href="#">Osbeck, 137-150</a> View videos for Week 3</td>
<td><strong>Homework Exercise #8</strong> (due at 11:59pm on 2/3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong> February 3</td>
<td>Primary Materials (Annotated Statutes – United States Code)</td>
<td><a href="#">Osbeck, 163-174</a> View videos for Week 4</td>
<td><strong>Homework Exercise #9</strong> (due at 11:59pm on 2/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5</strong> February 10</td>
<td>Primary Materials (Expanding and Updating Case Law)</td>
<td><a href="#">Osbeck, 179-182</a> View videos for Week 5</td>
<td><strong>Homework Exercise #10</strong> (due at 11:59pm on 2/17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6</strong> February 17</td>
<td>Dockets Florida Law Weekly</td>
<td><a href="#">Docket Research Guide from Yale Law School</a></td>
<td><strong>Read for next class</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7</strong> February 24</td>
<td>Administrative law Course Evaluations</td>
<td><a href="#">Osbeck, 47-51, 174-179</a></td>
<td>Review for Core Competencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Competencies Exam</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, February 28th 3:30pm to 5pm</td>
<td>Review session on Monday February 27th</td>
<td>Review for Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final</strong></td>
<td>Weekend of March 19-21</td>
<td>Review session on Tuesday March 14th</td>
<td><strong>Have a wonderful summer!</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* New items could be added to the “Before Class” section – please use the Canvas Week Overviews to stay current on the Before Class requirements