

**TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW**

Legal Research - A Component of Lawyering Process Fall 2017 Syllabus - Section 5 & 7

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I. LEGAL RESEARCH PROFESSOR ASSIGNMENTS

Lawyering Process Section(s)	Legal Research Professor	Class Day / Time	Room
§ 5/Prof. Anga	Prof. Norris	Thursday 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.	TMSL 126
§ 7/Prof. Stewart	Prof. Norris	Thursday 3:00 - 3:50 p.m.	TMSL 126

II. REQUIRED BOOKS

HARVARD LAW REVIEW ASSOC., THE BLUEBOOK: A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF CITATION (20th ed. 2015).

AMY E. SLOAN, BASIC LEGAL RESEARCH: TOOLS & STRATEGIES (6th ed. 2015).

For your convenience, a copy of this book has been put on reserve.

III. RECOMMENDED BOOK

AMY E. SLOAN & STEVEN D. SCHWINN, BASIC LEGAL RESEARCH WORKBOOK (Revised 4th ed. 2015).

IV. OFFICE HOURS

Thursday 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. and **Thursdays 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** and by appointment.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Generate legal search terms from a given fact pattern;
2. Create a research plan;
3. Interpret contemporary legal citations;
4. Understand court structures, hierarchies, and jurisdictions;
5. Evaluate the type and weight of a given legal authority in a given legal problem;
6. Given a legal topic, identify valuable secondary sources for researching that topic;
7. Given a citation to a contemporary U.S. case, statute, or federal regulation, locate the current full text of that case, statute, or federal regulation;
8. Given an annotated statute, use the annotations to locate cases interpreting the statute;
9. Given a case, determine if a holding of the case is still good law;
10. Interrelate legal resources in a jurisdiction using the topic and key number and headnote systems;

11. Discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and use of legal finding tools and methods, including electronic search terms, indexes, and annotations; and
12. Given a case, statute, regulation, periodical, book, or constitution, either in hardcopy or electronic format, create a correct Bluebook citation for that work

VI. ATTENDANCE

- A. **Attendance is required in this course.** Two (2) absences are allowed for the Legal Research portion of Lawyering Process.
- B. **There are no excused absences.** See *Student Rules of Matriculation* p.22, § 9.
- C. **Beginning with the third (3rd) absence,** I reserve the right to reduce the Legal Research portion of your final grade in accordance with the *Student Rules of Matriculation* cited above.

VII. MEASUREMENT OF PERFORMANCE

- A. The grade that you receive in Legal Research is worth 20% of your final Lawyering Process grade.
- B. The final grade for each student in Legal Research is based on four criteria for a total of 275 points.
 1. **Five Research Assignments** (125 points)
 - a. Twenty-five (25) points per assignment
 - b. The legal research assignments cover the following:
 1. The Bluebook (Citations)
 2. Case Research
 3. Statutory Research
 4. Federal Administrative Law Research
 5. Secondary Source Research
 2. **One Multiple Choice Exam** (100 points)
 3. **Class Participation** (35 points)
 - a. Attendance (15 points)
 - b. Assessment Exams (10 points each)
 1. Need to Download ExamSoft to complete
 2. Must complete each assessment by the deadline
 4. **Five CALI Lessons** (15 points)
 - a. Three (3) points per lesson
 - b. You must register and complete lessons while logged into CALI.
 - c. There will be a link to each CALI lesson through the TWEN page.
 - d. You must receive a minimum score of seventy (70) percent for full credit.
 - e. CALI Lessons:
 1. Introduction to Search Logic and Strategies (51 Questions)
 2. How to Find Case Law Using the Digests (6 Questions)
 3. Codification (11 Questions)
 4. Rulemaking: Federal Register and CFR (8 Questions)
 5. Introduction to Secondary Resources (4 Questions)

VIII. ASSIGNMENTS

- A. **Format Requirements** - To help insure fair and equitable grading, all assignments must be:
- Typed directly into the Word document downloaded from Lexis web courses.
 - 12 point Times New Roman font
 - Left margins justified only
 - Double space between answers
- B. **Required Heading** - The following information is required at the top, left-hand side of each assignment. DO NOT USE TITLE PAGES.
- Name
 - Section
 - Date
- C. **Required Statement** - The statement “*I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid*” must appear on each assignment.
- D. **Use of Computers** - Unless specifically instructed otherwise, you are to use print sources, not computers, to find the answers to assignments.
- E. **Submissions** – All Assignments must be submitted electronically via Lexis/Blackboard dropbox.

IX. COURSE ORGANIZATION

- A. Students meet for lecture once each week.
- B. In each lecture, I will examine:
1. The purpose of the resource.
 2. How the resource is used.
 3. How the resource fits within the total legal research scheme.
 4. How the source is cited based on The Bluebook.

X. RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS AND PENALTIES

- A. All assignments will be distributed in class and also made available on LEXIS Web Courses.
- B. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- C. Lawyers are always working against deadlines; therefore, extensions on due dates will NOT be granted.
- D. Late assignments will only be accepted within 24 hours of the deadline, but must be emailed directly to me. There will be an automatic deduction of 5 points for all assignments submitted late. No assignments will be accepted beyond 24 hours of the deadline.
- E. Every effort is made to have assignments returned to you at the class following the due date. Assignments will be returned online in the LEXIS Web Course, unless otherwise instructed.
- F. There is a one point penalty for omitting any required information such as the Honor Code statement or your signature.
- G. All answers must be arrived at independently, and the work submitted must be your own unless otherwise instructed. Failure to abide by this rule will be considered an Honor Code violation.

XI. RESEARCH PROCESS

Remember that research is a trial and error process. Do not become discouraged if you feel like you are going in circles. The research process is learnable, but you must remain patient and determined to accomplish the task.

XII. RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

Each assignment will have instructions on how to complete it. Instructions should be read and followed carefully, so that your grade is not penalized.

NORRIS FALL 2017 LEGAL RESEARCH SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPICS	READING	ASSIGNMENT GIVEN	ASSIGNMENT DUE
Week 1: 8/24/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction & purpose • Syllabus • Weight of authority 	Sloan – Chapters 1 & 11		
Week 2: 8/31/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Bluebook</i> • Civil Trial Process • Court Structure 	<i>The Bluebook</i> – pp. 1-2 Tables 1, 6-7, 10	Assignment 1: <i>The Bluebook</i> (Citations) Assessment: August 28-29, 2017	
Week 3: 9/7/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating and Evaluating Search Terms • Electronic Legal Research 	Sloan – Chapters 2, 3 & 5 <i>The Bluebook</i> – B10, B18 & Rules 10, 18	Assignment 2: Case Research CALI Lesson: Introduction to Search Logic and Strategies	Assessment: September 5, 2017 @ 5:00 PM
Week 4: 9/14/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Research • Citators 	Sloan – Chapter 6	CALI Lesson: How to Find Case Law Using the Digests	Assignment 1: <i>The Bluebook</i> (Citations)
Week 5: 9/21/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Citation Workshop 			
Week 6: 9/28/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Research • Legislative History 	Sloan – Chapter 7, 8 <i>The Bluebook</i> – B11, B12, B13, & Rules 11, 12 & 13	Assignment 3: Statutory Research CALI Lessons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codification 	Assignment 2: Case Research
Week 7: 10/5/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statute Citation Workshop 			
Week 8: 10/12/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Administrative Law 	Sloan – Chapter 9 <i>The Bluebook</i> – B14 & Rule 14	Assignment 4: Administrative Law Research CALI Lesson: Rulemaking: Federal Register and CFR	Assignment 3: Statutory Research
Week 9: 10/19/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Administration Citation Workshop 			
Week 10: 10/26/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Sources 	Sloan – Chapter 4 <i>The Bluebook</i> – B15, B16, & Rules 15 & 16	Assignment 5: Secondary Source Research CALI Lesson: Introduction to Secondary Resources	Assignment 4: Statutory Research
Week 11: 11/2/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Sources (con't) 			
Week 12: 11/9/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simulated Research Assignment 			Assignment 5: Secondary Source Research
Week 13: 11/16/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM REVIEW 			ALL CALI LESSONS (Due by class)
Week 14: 11/23/2017	THANKSGIVING (No Class)			
Week 15: 11/30/2017	*** EXAMINATION (<i>Bluebook</i> allowed) *** Assessment: November 27-28, 2017; Due by November 28, 2017 @ 5:00PM			