

**Syllabus**  
**Lawyering Skills I: Research Fall 2025**  
**Law 507B – Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6**

**Contact Information:**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment

**Course Management Page:** <https://mycourses.siu.edu/d2l/home/669657>

All information, materials, assignments, and quizzes for this course will be posted on the course page for Fall 2025 Lawyering Skills I: Legal Research (LAW-507A) on D2L or (<https://mycourses.siu.edu/d2l/home/669657>). Get into the habit of checking the course management page and your email daily. I often post important announcements on the course management page and use the page to send out emails to students.

**Course Description**

This course will build a foundation of research skills that students will use throughout their legal career. You will be introduced to the process of legal research and research strategy, becoming familiar with current tools and methods. Students will gain experience using online research databases to find statutory and case law, as well as using secondary sources for background information and to find and put into context primary law.

**Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

- Understand sources of primary law
- Use search strategies to locate relevant sources
- Identify what authorities are controlling
- Be able to determine whether a source is still “good law”

## Course Materials

- *Sources of American Law: An Introduction to Legal Research*, Beau B. Steenken & Tina M. Brooks, 8<sup>th</sup> ed., available for free on CALI  
<https://www.cali.org/books/sources-american-law-introduction-legal-research>
- Westlaw, Lexis, and CALI
  - CALI authorization code: SOUILLstu193
- Harvard Law Association, *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 22<sup>nd</sup> edition. (hereinafter referred to as *The Bluebook*)
- A laptop for class

## Class Policies

**Student courtesy policy:** The classroom is a shared space where consideration and compassion for others are not negotiable.

### Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected. You are allowed up to two absences for any reason, without penalty. Those exceeding the maximum number of absences will be subject to the ramifications described in the Law School's attendance policy. See School of Law Rules III.5 (f)-(g).

An excerpt from SIU Law's Attendance Policy is below:

Regular Attendance. In accordance with ABA Standard 308(a), the right to take exams, as well as the privilege of continuing as a student at the School of Law, is conditioned on regular attendance and satisfactory completion of coursework. . . [A] student enrolled in a first-year course may not accumulate class hour absences in excess of twice the credit hours in any particular course during the term. . . . The attendance requirement is not subject to modification by a professor, nor may a professor excuse an absence. If the absences allowed under this provision have been exhausted, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may grant leave and relief from the regular attendance requirement in extraordinary circumstances. . . . The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will not grant leave from the rules requiring regular attendance unless the request shows extraordinary circumstances or an unavoidable circumstance. If leave is not granted, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will discuss with the student options for withdrawing from a course and retaking in a future semester. [amended 4/19/11; 11/18/22; 5/13/24] (emphasis added).

## Policy for Missed or Late Work & Class Preparation

Due dates for every assignment and quiz are provided on the Course Management Page. Law is all about deadlines. Missing deadlines, being unprepared for class, or missing meetings can have dire consequences for your clients and for you (malpractice, loss of respect from the court, discipline from the bar association.) **Late work will not be accepted unless prior approval is given.** That approval will only be granted in extreme circumstances that are clearly beyond your control. Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings, completing CALI lessons, and assignments.

## Law School Honor Code and University Code of Conduct.

**Both the Honor Code and the Code of Conduct apply and are in effect in this class.**

Read both documents carefully and make sure you comply with both at all times.

***Submitting plagiarized work or any other form of work not your own***, regardless of a student's purpose or intent, is potentially subject to serious sanctions as are other academic, honor code, and conduct code offenses. Do not consult others on the final work product you turn in. If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code, Code of Conduct or either's application, consult me. The following guidance may also be helpful:

✓What you may do: You may discuss assignments, but not quizzes, with other students. This includes discussing issues, research, and analysis. You may consult teaching assistants, librarians, or your research professor for questions about assignments.

❖ What you **may not** do: You may not turn in work that is not your own. You may not collaborate on assignments (unless permitted in class). The written product must be your own work; you may not copy another student's work and hand it in as your own. You may not seek assistance on any written assignment from anyone except your research professor or a teaching assistant, and teaching assistants are neither obligated nor always permitted to provide assistance. **You may not use Artificial Intelligence to complete any assignment, quiz, CALI lessons, and/or any other assigned work.**

## Course Workload

Students should:

- Complete all assigned course readings and assignments by the due date
- Come to class prepared to discuss the material and to ask questions about anything that is confusing

- Spend time going over the material covered in class and reworking all in-class problems to ensure you are able to find the material using the various research databases without help
- Ask for help if they need it!

## Grading

You earn points toward your grade in Lawyering Skills Research as follows:

- CALI lessons: 10% of your final grade
- Library tour: 5% of your final grade
- Quizzes: 45% of your final grade
- Research Log: 40% of your final grade

You will be allowed three attempts for each CALI lesson. We will count your highest score.

At the end of the semester, the points you earned in each category will be added to arrive at your raw score. If you earn at least 80% of the available points, you will receive a grade of Satisfactory.

## Class Schedule

This class is taught concurrently with Legal Writing and does not meet every week. For Week 7 and Week 9, you will meet for Legal Research instead of Legal Writing.

You must also attend a tour of the law library. You will sign up for a time slot in advance [by clicking this link](#).

- Week 1 (August 18 – August 22)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - Read the syllabus
  - Quiz #1
    - Opens August 22 at 5:00pm
    - Closes August 26 at 5:00pm
- Week 2 (August 25 – August 29)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - Read
    - Ch. 1 (pp 1-17)
  - CALI Lessons

- [Where Does Law Come from?](#)
  - [Common Law Basics: What Faculty May Assume You Know](#)
  - Due August 29 at 5:00pm
- Week 3 (September 1 – September 5)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - CALI Lesson
    - [Introduction to Secondary Resources](#)
    - Due September 5 at 5:00pm
  - Read:
    - Ch. 8 (pp 162-179)
- Week 4 (September 8 – September 12)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - CALI Lessons
    - [Finding Statutes](#)
    - [Updating Federal and State Statutes](#)
    - Due September 12 at 5:00pm
  - Read
    - Ch. 3.1 – 3.7 (pp. 38-62)
- Week 5 (September 15 – September 19)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - CALI Lessons
    - [Anatomy of a Case](#)
    - [Validating Cases Using Online Citators](#)
    - Due September 19 at 5:00pm
  - Read
    - Ch. 4 (pp. 77-100)
    - Ch. 6 (pp 130-139)
- Week 6 (September 22 – September 26)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - CALI Lessons
    - [Introduction to Search Logic and Strategies](#)
    - [Legal Research Methodology](#)
    - Due September 26 at 5:00pm
  - Read
    - Ch. 2 (pp 23-37)
    - Ch. 7 (pp 144-155)
- **Week 7 (September 29 – October 3)**
  - Attend Legal Research

- Introduction to Primary Sources
  - Research Log Information
  - Assignment TBD
- Week 8 (October 6 – October 10)
  - No classes
- **Week 9 (October 13 – October 17)**
  - Attend Legal Research
    - Searching for Primary Sources
    - Research Search Strategies
    - Research Log Information
  - Assignment TBD
  - Quiz #2
    - Opens October 17 at 5:00pm
    - Opens October 21 at 5:00pm
- Week 10 (October 20 – October 24)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - Read
    - Ch 9 (pg 186-202)
- Week 11 (October 27 – October 31)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - Assignment TBD
- Week 12 (November 3 – November 7)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - Assignment TBD
- Week 13 (November 10 – November 14)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - Assignment TBD
- Week 14 (November 17 – November 21)
  - Attend Legal Writing
  - Quiz #3
    - Opens November 12 at 5:00pm
    - Closes November 19 at 5:00pm
  - Research log
    - Due November 21 at 5:00pm

## **Syllabus Attachment**

**SIU SIMMONS LAW SCHOOL – Fall, 2025**

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:** We ask that you become familiar with Emergency Preparedness @ SIU. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the Emergency Preparedness @ SIU website, and through text and email alerts. To register for alerts, visit <http://emergency.siu.edu/>.

**DISABILITY POLICY.** SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. The Office of Access and Accommodations, formerly Disability Support Services, coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval, please contact OAA immediately at 618-453-5738 or [disabilityservices.siu.edu](mailto:disabilityservices.siu.edu). You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to ensure accommodations are in place when needed. Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty. Please send approved accommodations to your faculty through the DSS online portal.

**SALUKI CARES and COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS).** The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students, and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-2461, or [siucares@siu.edu](mailto:siucares@siu.edu), <https://salukicare.siu.edu/>. Associate Dean Shelia Simon [ssimon@siu.edu](mailto:ssimon@siu.edu) or (618) 536-8321 is available at the Simmons Law School to help students access university resources. Additionally, counseling services are available through CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) | Student Health Services | SIU). A counselor is at the law school every Wednesday from noon until 4:30pm in Room 268 for drop-in appointments.

**SAFETY AWARENESS FACTS AND EDUCATION** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://safe.siu.edu>

**Other policies and procedures from either the instructor, the Simmons Law School, and/or the University will be posted on the D2L page for the course under Content.**