

**SYLLABUS**  
**LAWYERING SKILLS RESEARCH - LAW 507A-1**  
**Sections 001-004**  
**Fall 2021**

**CLASSROOM INFORMATION & TIME**

Thursday

Sec. 1: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Classroom: 206

Sec. 2: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Classroom: 164

Sec. 3: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Classroom: 206

Sec. 4: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Classroom: 164

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Prof. Doug Lind

Office: Room 175A (Law Library)

Email: [dlind@siu.edu](mailto:dlind@siu.edu)

Phone: 618-453-8713

Best Method of Contact: Email

Prof. Alicia Jones

Office: Room 168A (Law Library) or

Office: Room 136 (Administrative Suite)

Email: [agjones@siu.edu](mailto:agjones@siu.edu)

Phone: 618-453-8756

Best Method of Contact: Email

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this class, students should be able to:

- Plan and execute the process of finding relevant state and Federal statutes and case law.
- Select the authorities that best address the simulated client problems assigned..
- Cite the authorities selected properly.

A more detailed list of the chunks of knowledge and skills that go into accomplishing these learning objectives is posted on the course management webpage (see Detailed Lawyering Skills Learning Objectives for Research, Fall Semester).

**COURSE MANAGEMENT WEBPAGE**

All information, materials, assignments, quizzes, and exams for this course will be posted on the course page for Law 507A-01- 04 on D2L.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND EQUIPMENT

- Kent C. Olson, Aaron S. Kirschenfeld, and Ingrid Mattson, *Principles of Legal Research* (3d ed., West Academic 2020). ISBN: 9781640208056.
- Coleen Barger, *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* (6th ed., Wolters Kluwer 2017). ISBN: 9781454887768. (Prof. Marlow's legal writing classes)
- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21<sup>st</sup> ed., The Harvard Law Review Association, Gannett House 2020). ISBN: 9780578666150 (Prof. Alexander's legal writing classes)
- A laptop computer (Windows or Mac) with webcam, or an iPad, with webcam. Note: other types of tablets do not currently work with the LockDown Browser app required for some of the testing planned for this semester. You can use other tablets for note taking but will not be able to use them for quizzes or the final exam in this course.

## REQUIRED SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES AND RELATED ACCOUNT REGISTRATION

Students will use Lexis Advance, Westlaw, and CALI (Computer Assisted Legal Instruction) subscription services.

- Check your @siu.edu mailbox for account registration information (and get in the habit of checking that email box daily).
- Prior to the first day of class, student should register for each subscription service and make sure they can login to their accounts.

Students will also need to download the Lockdown Browser application to use taking quizzes and exams in this course online. For additional information, see <https://web.respondus.com/respondus-lockdown-browser-the-student-experience/>.

Please contact Professor Alicia Jones at [agjones@siu.edu](mailto:agjones@siu.edu) if you have problems registering for or accessing your account.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will help you develop the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively perform legal research, an essential foundation for your future work as an attorney. To succeed in law, you must find all of the legal authorities necessary to resolve a matter that is or may come to be in dispute. That is, to persuade a judge or other decision-maker to rule in your client's favor, or to predict the likely outcome if a dispute were to arise over a matter that concerns them. You will face analogous expectations well before that if you are on law review or moot court, work in one of the law school clinics, take a symposium course with a research paper requirement, work as a research assistant for a faculty member, serve as a judicial or agency intern, or work for a law firm during law school. The difference is that once you are in professional practice, you will have more problems to research, less time to do so, and more things competing for your attention, putting more of a premium on efficiency.

Thus, it is vital that you start building a good foundation from the start. This course aims to help you do so.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO LAWYERING SKILLS WRITING COURSE**

There is a symbiotic relationship between legal research and writing. Surveys of practicing attorneys (including those who do hiring) consistently demonstrate these are critically important skills. It does not matter how proficient you are at written or verbal communication if you are wrong on the law, and being right on the law cannot help your client if you are not able to communicate effectively.

Recognizing that relationship, Lawyering Skills Research, and Lawyering Skills Writing are taught in an integrated manner, each helping you develop knowledge and skills you will need in the other. The two courses are graded separately. However, their policies differ, such as the way your professor monitors your attendance, rules about the use of electronic devices during class, and restrictions on collaboration, so be sure to read both syllabi carefully.

### **AFFILIATED WRITING PROFESSORS**

Melissa Marlow ([mmarlow@siu.edu](mailto:mmarlow@siu.edu))

Peter Alexander ([peter.alexander@siu.edu](mailto:peter.alexander@siu.edu))

### **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Adam Jelovic-3L ([adam.jelovic@siu.edu](mailto:adam.jelovic@siu.edu))

James Jones-3L ([james.jones@siu.edu](mailto:james.jones@siu.edu))

Elle Basler-2L ([elle.basler@siu.edu](mailto:elle.basler@siu.edu))

Simran Saini ([simran.saini@siu.edu](mailto:simran.saini@siu.edu))

Matthew Cook ([matthew.cook@siu.edu](mailto:matthew.cook@siu.edu))

### **ATTENDANCE, AND COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded for each session by having students sign an attendance sheet. The absence of a signature on an attendance sheet is conclusive evidence of absence. This policy applies to all scheduled class sessions, and the out of class research conference. Any student who misses a class session is responsible for communicating with their research professor to cover the missed material. Students are permitted one absence in this class for the semester. Students with additional absences will be referred to the Associate Dean. The course's learning activities are designed to provide everyone with the opportunities needed to achieve the targeted learning objectives.

All persons attending class will be required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be weekly assignments to prepare for class, posted on the course management web page, including a mix of readings, videos, exercises, polling, and/or quizzes.

Students will complete additional assigned exercises in class, including opportunities to practice research techniques and short writing assignments that will ask you to identify challenging points in the material covered or to reflect on the implications of that material. We will be using the discussion board on the course management webpage as a vehicle for sharing those writings, and all students are required to post observations there.

In addition to short in-class exercises and four quizzes to test knowledge and understanding, with feedback to help students see where they need to improve and how to do so, before the final examination in the course.

A final exam will be given to test whether students have achieved the learning objectives for the course.

Finally, although not part of your grade in this course, your Lawyering Skills Writing professor will be assigning a writing problem that requires students to perform research to respond to a simulated client problem, drawing on what you learn in this course.

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

**You must satisfactorily complete every assessed assignment in the course to pass the course.** “Every assessed assignment” includes the class preparation exercises, in-class research exercises, reflective writings, and discussion board assignments, quizzes, a Zoom research conference to review your research for your Lawyering Skills Writing assignment, and the final examination.

You should expect to spend at least 3 hours on this class weekly, including 75 minutes of classroom instruction. You will need to do so to complete the assignments and do well on them, and the American Bar Association standards require it.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Lawyering Skills Research is a one credit hour class. The American Bar Association standards require “not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.” ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools 2019-2020, Standard 310(b)(1). For purposes of this Standard, fifty minutes suffices for one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction. An “hour” for out-of-class student work is sixty minutes. The fifteen-week period may include one week for a final examination.” *Id.*, at Interpretation 310-1.

## **GRADING**

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

- Quizzes: 25 percent
- Final research exam: 75 percent

Not being prepared for class when called upon will result in an absence. At the end of the semester, your research professor will add up the points you earned in each of those categories to arrive at your raw score. Then they will curve the raw scores for their two sections together, following the required grade distribution and required grade median for all first-year courses at the School of Law, to arrive at your final course grade.

## **CLASSROOM ELECTRONICS**

You will need a laptop computer or tablet with access to the law school wireless network at each class session but are to use it solely for class purposes. Please have your laptop or tablet up and running at the start of each class period.

By “class purposes,” we mean using your electronic device to explore online legal research resources (guided by your research professor), performing in-class research exercises and other assignments for the course, note-taking if desired, and completing research quizzes and examinations. Unauthorized use during class includes texting, emailing, gaming, shopping, and accessing other sites not related to the classroom topic. This rule applies to your use of laptops, phones, tablets, and other mobile or wireless devices.

Be sure to turn off phone ringers and texting functions before class begins. You will discover as lawyers that failure to do so in court can result in a bailiff confiscating your phone. We reserve the right to do so in class if it becomes a problem.

## **PROFESSIONALISM**

Lawyers are professionals, and part of what you will be learning in both of your Lawyering Skills courses each semester is how to handle yourself professionally in the context of your legal education and your newly acquired legal skills. You begin to establish your reputation here, by your timely completion of assignments, your attendance and active participation in class, your adherence to the course policies, and how you conduct yourself in person and by email, with your classmates, the TA's, and the professors. For example, surfing the Internet in class, disrupting the class with questions not submitted in good faith, emailing a professor during the time you are in another professor's class, coming to class late, or emailing the professor with a question answered in the syllabus would be unprofessional conduct. This is not an exhaustive list of unprofessional conduct. Before you act, please consider whether you would say or do what you were about to say or do in front of a judge or a meeting with a client or a senior attorney in a law office.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Week 1**

**Thursday, August 19, 2021**

Class Topic: Introduction to Legal Research, Information Literacy, and U.S. Legal Systems

Preparation: Olson, p. 1-25  
ALWD, p. 1-9 (Marlow)

### **Week 2**

**Thursday, August 26, 2021**

Class Topic: Introduction to Research Process and Search Basics

Preparation: Olson, p. 26-30  
ALWD, p. 10-41 (Marlow)  
CALI Lesson: Sarah E. Gotschall, *Introduction to Search Logic and Strategies* (2017), <https://www.cali.org/lesson/1121>

### **Week 3**

**Thursday, September 2, 2021**

Class Topic: Secondary Legal Authority: Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Periodicals, Texts and Treatises, ALR

Preparation: Olson, p. 31-74, 336-342  
ALWD, p. 188-238 (Marlow)

### **Week 4**

**Thursday, September 9, 2021**

**Sections 1 and 3-- No Class**

**Sections 2 and 4 have a Legal Writing Class with Prof. Alexander**

**Friday, September 10, 2021, 2:00 pm**

Quiz #1 goes live on D2L. (Closes Monday, September 13, 2021, 9:00 pm)

### **Week 5**

**Thursday, September 16, 2021**

Class Topic: Quiz 1 Review and Introduction to Statutory Research and Citation

Preparation: Olson, p. 99-134  
ALWD, p. 105-119 (Marlow)

## **Week 6**

**Thursday, September 23, 2021**

Class Topic: Statutory Research

Preparation: Olson, p. 135-148

CALI Lesson: Rebecca S. Trammell, *Updating Federal and State Statutes* (Revised 2019), <https://www.cali.org/lesson/584>

CALI Lesson: Cathleen Wharton, Daisy Hurst Floyd, and Bertis E. Downs, *Citation Form for Briefs and Legal Memoranda* (2018), <https://www.cali.org/lesson/561>

**Friday, September 24, 2021 at 2:00 pm**

Quiz #2 goes live on D2L. (Closes Monday, September 27, 2021, 9:00 pm)

## **Week 7**

**Thursday, September 30, 2021**

Class Topic: Quiz 2 Review, Case Law Research and Citation

Preparation: Olson, p. 275-341

CALI Lesson: Yolanda Jones, *Hold'em, Fold'em, Walk Away or Run: When to Stop the Search* (2004), <https://www.cali.org/lesson/763>

## **Week 8 MIDTERM WEEK**

**No LS classes or study block this week**

## **Week 9**

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

**Sections 1 and 3 – No Class**

**Sections 2 and 4 have Legal Writing with Prof. Alexander**

## **Week 10**

**Thursday, October 21, 2021**

Class Topic: Case Law Research: Citators and Citation

Preparation: Olson, p. 342-348

CALI Lesson: Rebecca S. Trammell, *Updating/Validating Case Law Using Citators* (Revised 2014), <https://www.cali.org/lesson/858>

**Friday, October 22, 2021, 2:00 pm**

Quiz #3 goes live on D2L. (Closes Monday, October 25, 2021, 9:00 pm)

**Week 11**

**Monday, October 25, 2021 – Friday, October 29, 2021**

**Research conference with your research professor at scheduled time slot. (You must submit your log of completed research by email by 5 pm the day before your scheduled conference)**

**Thursday, October 28, 2021**

Class Topic: Quiz 3 Review, Course Review and Review of Research Exam Logistics

**Week 12**

**Thursday, November 4, 2021**

**Sections 1 and 3 – No Class**

**Sections 2 and 4 have Legal Writing with Prof. Alexander**

**Week 13**

**No research class**

**Week 14**

**Friday, November 12, 2021, 2:00 pm**

Research final exam goes live on D2L.

**Friday, November 19, 2021, 5:00 pm**

Deadline to complete research final exam

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**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. 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 DSS immediately at 618-453-5738 or [disabilityservices.siu.edu](http://disabilityservices.siu.edu). You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to insure 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. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreements for each course to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure*



*the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations. Accommodation [request](#) and [renewal](#) forms can be found here:*

**SALUKI CARES.** *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/>. At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is [judiray@siu.edu](mailto:judiray@siu.edu), and her phone number is 618- 453-3135.*

**COVID-19.** *SIUC's policy on face masks and social distancing is consistent with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Illinois Department of Public Health. For up-to-date information, students, faculty, and staff should visit SIUC's COVID website (<https://siu.edu/coronavirus>), which includes the Saluki Safety Plan. People can also send email to [pandemicinfor@siu.edu](mailto:pandemicinfor@siu.edu).*