

**SYLLABUS**  
**LAWYERING SKILLS II, RESEARCH**  
**SECTIONS 1 & 3**  
**Nolan Wright**  
**Spring 2021**

**Professor:**

Nolan Wright  
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**Class Sessions:**

Online only, via Zoom

Thursdays, with a few exceptions

Section 1           9:15-10:30 am

Section 3           11:00 am – 12:15 pm

[Jump to weekly schedule](#)

**Course Objectives: What You Can Expect to Learn**

You will learn about additional sources of primary and secondary legal authority and research strategies this semester, building on what you learned in Research I in the fall, to more fully enable you to represent your future clients. You simply cannot do so unless you are able to find all the legal authorities necessary to resolve the matter in question, and 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 build a good foundation from the start. If there gaps in what you mastered in the fall, this is also your opportunity to address that. I want each of you to succeed and will do all I can to help you do so.

More detailed information listing the chunks of knowledge and skills you will be assessed on will be provided on the course management webpage to help you gauge your progress over the course of the semester.

**Course Management Webpage:**

All information, materials, assignments, quizzes, and exams for this course will be posted on the course page for Law 507B (oo1-003), Legal Research II on D2L. I encourage you to learn how to set up automatic notifications on D2L so receive alerts to new postings (see “notifications” after clicking on your name in the top right corner of the page).

**Required Texts & Equipment:**

- I will post links on the course webpage on D2L to assigned readings on legal research and assigned CALI (Computer Assisted Legal Instruction) exercises.
- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (20<sup>th</sup> ed. 2015). ISBN 978-0-692-40019-7
- You will need to have a computer or iPad tablet with webcam to access online resources to prepare for class, participate in class, practice your research skills on exercises in and outside of class, and in order to take the quizzes and final exam. You can use other types of tablet for note taking but will not be able to use them for quizzes or the final exam in this course as they currently do not work with the Lockdown Browser app used for those assessments.

**Attendance:**

It is tough to succeed in legal practice or much else in life if you don't prepare, show up, and participate. That applies to this class as well. Plan to come. Plan to participate. If you can't make the session for your section you are always welcome to attend the other, but advance notice is appreciated where possible. If you miss a session altogether you are responsible for the material you missed. No deadlines will be extended based solely on your absence from a class. This policy applies to all regularly scheduled class sessions listed in this syllabus, as well as other required activities scheduled during the semester. You are allowed up to two absences for any reason. I will refer students with additional absences to the Associate Dean.

**Assignments:**

I will post weekly assignments to prepare for class on the course management web page. That will include a mix of readings, videos, CALI exercises, and PowerPoints, and may also include pre-class polling and/or surveys to identify points that students have questions about. You should also expect to receive several short, ungraded research exercises assigned to do in class for practice, as well as several longer graded exercises to do out of class, and one or more short writing assignments 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.

**Office hours (hat tip to Prof. Simon for the language):**

I am in my office a lot. (Nerd alert!) Stop by any time, no appointment is necessary—but masks are an absolute must. If it works better for you to make an appointment in advance, please do so. You can also email me ([nwright@siu.edu](mailto:nwright@siu.edu)), call my office, (618) 453-8791, or my cell, (512) 567-7972, or we can set up a Zoom meeting. There is no limit on the number of questions you can ask or how often you can stop by, email, or phone.

**Deadlines (another a hat tip to Prof. Simon for some of the language):**

Time management is not one of my strengths, so I sympathize if you struggle with it as well, but deadlines are a huge deal in legal practice, whether imposed by the law, the court, our employers, or our clients, so I would not be doing you a service if I did not hold you accountable. In this class our deadlines will be like court-imposed deadlines, set by someone with total authority (me!), and extended only with prior approval and under extraordinary circumstances. I will critique quiz submissions and completed exercises that are submitted late, but the grade will be zero for that assignment.

**Grading:**

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

- Quizzes and research exercises                      30% of total available points
- Class preparation & participation                      10% of total available points
- The final exam will be worth                              60% of total available points

I will add up the points you earn in each of these categories to arrive at your total raw score, rank ordered, combining students in both sections 1 and 3, and apply the required grade distribution and grade median for all first-year courses at the School of Law to arrive at your final course grade.

**Workload Expectations (yet another chunk of text from Prof. Simon ... I may have to pay royalties):**

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

**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: <https://law.siu.edu/academics/>.

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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). The fifteen-week period may include one week for a final examination.” Id., at Interpretation 310-1.

### **Saluki Cares & Your Health:**

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), <http://salukicare.siu.edu/index.html>. 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 Precautions:**

As a condition of on-campus enrollment, all SIUC students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19, including the requirement that all students wear a mask in campus buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, and studios when others are present, regardless of social distancing. Students are expected to follow physical or social distancing guidelines by keeping at least 6 feet from others, and practicing good hand hygiene. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. SIUC will follow federal, state and county public health recommendations and mandates in all decisions relating to university operation. Students should regularly review the link for the SIUC COVID-19 response.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

This is the anticipated schedule for the semester. Things could change, so be ready to roll with it (tenacity and adaptability are valuable attributes in legal practice).

#### **Week 1**

##### **Thursday, January 21**

Class Topic: Research refresh, focusing on hitting the ground running on necessary research for first assignment in Lawyering Skills Writing using annotated statutory code sources and secondary sources.  
Preparation: Review materials received in Lawyering Skills II Writing class for first assignment, prepare written plan to guide your research, and come prepared to discuss it.

#### **Week 2**

##### **Thursday, January 28**

Class Topic: More tools, tricks, and reminders for finding and selecting case law.  
Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on the D2L course webpage.

#### **Week 3**

##### **Thursday, February 4**

Class Topic: Administrative law research.  
Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on the D2L course webpage.

#### **Week 4**

##### **Thursday, February 11**

Class Topic: Administrative law research continued.

Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on D2L course webpage.

#### **Week 5**

##### **Thursday, February 18**

Class Topic: Administrative law research wrap up; introduction to legislative history research (searching for evidence of legislative intent).

Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on D2L course webpage.

#### **Week 6**

##### **Thursday, February 25**

Class Topic: Legislative history research continued.

Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on D2L course webpage.

#### **Week 7**

##### **Monday, March 1- Friday, March 5**

Research conference at scheduled time slot via Zoom (watch for announcement re scheduling and other details)

##### **Thursday, March 4**

Class Topic: Legislative history research wrap up.

Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on D2L course webpage.

#### **Week 8** MIDTERM WEEK

No LSII classes

#### **Week 9**

##### **Monday, March 15- Friday, March 19**

Research conference at scheduled time slot via Zoom (watch for announcement re scheduling and other details)

##### **Thursday, March 18**

Class Topic: Court rules and jury instructions.

Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on D2L course webpage.

#### **Week 10**

No research class session

**Week 11 (two research class sessions)**

**Tuesday, March 30**

Class Topic: Forms and other practice aids

Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on D2L course webpage

**Thursday, April 1**

Class Topic: Practice aids continued

Preparation: Complete the readings and other pre-class learning activities listed for the week on D2L course webpage

**Week 12**

**Thursday, April 8**

Class Topic: Course review and review of research exam logistics

**Friday, April 9, 1 pm**

Final exam goes live on D2L course webpage.

**Week 13**

No research class session

**Week 14**

**Monday, April 19, 5 pm**

Deadline to complete final exam.