

SYLLABUS
LAWYERING SKILLS RESEARCH - LAW 507B-1
Sections 2 & 4 – Spring 2021

CLASSROOM INFORMATION & TIME

Thursday

Sec. 2: 8:45 am – 10:00 am

Classroom: 108

Sec. 4: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Classroom: 108

CONTACT INFORMATION

Prof. Alicia Jones

Office: Room 168A (Law Library)

Email: agjones@siu.edu

Phone: 618-453-8780

Best Method of Contact: Email

Also offered simultaneously via Zoom

COURSE MANAGEMENT PAGE: [Law 507B Legal Research sec. 2 and 4](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will continue to build on the skills learned in the fall in Lawyering Skills Research I. Students will get additional experience using the 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. This semester will introduce students to research in administrative law, legislative history, court rules, practice aids, refining online search skills and strategies and research planning.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course students will be able:

- Select the authorities that best address the simulated client problems assigned
- Cite the authorities selected properly
- Locate and interpret federal and state administration regulations
- Trace the legislative history of a statute
- identify court rules, forms, and practice aids to assist in resolving a client problem

Additional learning objectives will be provided to students at the beginning of each research module.

COURSE MANAGEMENT WEBPAGE

All information, materials, assignments, quizzes, and exams for this course will be posted on the course page for [Law 507B Legal Research sec. 02-04](#) on D2L or (<https://mycourses.siu.edu/d2l/home/466986>) . Get in 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND EQUIPMENT

- Assigned readings on legal authorities and research, pulled from various sources, will be posted on the course webpage on D2L (no charges).
- Coleen Barger, *ALWD Guide to Legal Citation* (6th ed., Wolters Kluwer 2017). ISBN 9781454887768.
- 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 continue to use Lexis Advance, Westlaw, and CALI (Computer Assisted Legal Instruction) subscription services and Lockdown Browser for quizzes and exams. Prior to the first day of class, students should check to insure they can still login to their accounts.

AFFILIATED WRITING PROFESSOR

Melissa Marlow (mmarlow@siu.edu)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Each Lawyering Skills section has two class meeting times scheduled for each week. The Tuesday class meeting will cover writing topics (Lawyering Skills Writing), and the Thursday class meeting will cover research topics (Lawyering Skills Research). Many of the class meetings will include opportunities to work in smaller groups. Section 2 will meet on T and Th from 8:45-10:00am, and Section 4 will meet on T and Th from 10:30-11:45am, both in the Courtroom (Room 108).

ATTENDANCE, AND COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded for each session. Any student who misses a class session is responsible for communicating with their research professor to cover the missed material. Students are permitted two absences in this class for the semester. Students with additional absences will be referred to the Associate Dean.

This class is offered in-person in Room 108 and simultaneously via Zoom at the times listed. Students have the option of attending in-person or via Zoom out of COVID-19 concerns. This is subject to change, as possible pandemic-related circumstances may make it necessary to shift to online-only instruction.

Additional details:

- Everyone attending the in-person class will be required to:

- use the designated entrance and exit to the room,
- sit in their assigned seats,
- otherwise maintain physical distance from others in the classroom, and
- wear a mask covering their nose and mouth.
- Students choosing to attend via Zoom are required to:
 - have their webcams on during the class session and
 - should make sure they have reliable internet service.
- Note that wireless service is available to students throughout the law school building, including the law library.
- No student should attend in person, but should instead attend via Zoom, if they do not feel well, have COVID-19 symptoms, or have been in contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 unless the student has since tested negative and been cleared per CDC guidelines.
- Students will participate in the same learning activities, including small group assignments that include a mix of in-person students and online students, collaborating using features in Zoom and the course website, and will be graded the same way, whether attending in person or online.
- Instructions will be provided on using the necessary features of Zoom and the course websites.
- See additional information on the SIU Coronavirus Information webpage: <https://siu.edu/coronavirus/>

RECORDING

Students may not record the class sessions without the professor's permission.

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, quizzes, and discussion boards.

Students will complete additional assigned exercises in class, including opportunities to practice research techniques. In addition to short in-class exercises, there will be out-of-class research exercises assigned to help students develop their skill, and 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.

Students should notify the professor in advance if an assignment will be late. Students will receive a 0 on all quizzes not completed by the due date unless the student has notified the professor in advance. Professor will deduct points for all other late submissions of written assignments.

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.

COURSE WORKLOAD

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.¹

Students should:

- Complete all assigned course readings prior to class
- 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 insure 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:

- Class preparation and participation: 5% of final grade
- Out of class research exercises: 20% of final grade
- Quizzes: 15% of final grade
- Final research exam: 60% of final grade

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.

¹Lawyering 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.

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.

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 TOPICS: CHECK D2L COURSE PAGE FOR THE WEEKLY CLASS READINGS

Week 1: Thursday, January 21

Class topic: Online Search Strategies and Research Process Refresh

Week 2: Thursday, January 28

Class topic: Online Search Strategies and Research Process Refresh

Weeks 3 and 4: Thursdays, February 4 and February 11

Class topic: Administrative Law Research

Weeks 5 and 6: Thursdays, February 18 and February 25

Class topic: Legislative History Research

Week 7: Thursday, March 4

Class topic: Review of Administrative Law and Legislative History Research

Week 8 MIDTERM WEEK

No LS classes or study block this week

Week 9: Monday, March 15 – Friday, March 19

Required research conferences, schedule to be determined

Thursday, March 18

Class topic: Court Rules

Week 10: Thursday, March 25

Class Topic: Practice Aids

Week 11: Thursday, April 1

Class Topic: Practice Aids and Forms

Week 12: Thursday, April 8

Class Topic: Course Review

Week 13: Friday, April 9

Final Research Exam (take home) goes live at 5:00 pm on D2L

Week 14: Monday, April 19

Final Research Exam due upload to D2L 5:00 pm

SYLLABUS ATTACHMENT

SIU SCHOOL OF LAW – SPRING 2021

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. 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/>.

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, <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, and her phone number is 618-453-3135.

COVID-19. 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](#).

[SIU Provost Syllabus Attachment](#)