

SYLLABUS
LAWYERING SKILLS RESEARCH - LAW 507B-1
Sections 1-4 Spring 2022

**CLASSROOM INFORMATION &
TIME**

Thursday

Sec. 3: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Classroom: 206

Sec. 4: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Classroom: 108

Sec. 1: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Classroom 206

Sec. 2: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Classroom 108

CONTACT INFORMATION

Professors Lind and Moreland

Office: Room 168A (Law Library)

Email: dlind@siu.edu

jomorela@iu.edu

Phone: 618-453-8713

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.

COURSE MANAGEMENT WEBPAGE

All information, materials, assignments, quizzes, and exams for this course will be posted on the course page on D2L.

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.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded for each session by having students complete one or more assigned activities. 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.

GRADING

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

- 3 Quizzes: 100 points
- Final research exam: 200 points

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Thursday, January 13

Class topic: Searching for administrative regulations and documents created during the rule making process

Prepare for class: Olson, Ch. 8, 205-227

Week 2

Thursday, January 20

Class topic: Searching for administrative agency decisions and guidance material

Prepare for class: Olson, Ch. 8, 228-239

Week 3

Thursday, January 27

Administrative law (continued)

Friday, January 28

1:00 pm -- **Research exercise #1 available for download on D2L.**

Week 4

Tuesday, February 1

5:00 pm - **Research exercise #1 due – upload final work product to D2L.**

Thursday, February 3

Class topics: Review of statutory and case research and the research plan.

https://lawlibguides.luc.edu/ld.php?content_id=28056878

Searching for legislation and evidence of legislative intent

Prepare for class: Olson, Ch. 6, 149-168

Week 5

Thursday, February 10

Class topic: Searching for legislation and evidence of legislative intent cont'd

Week 6

Thursday, February 17

Class topic: Searching for legislation and evidence of legislative intent cont'd

Friday, February 18

1:00 pm -- **Research exercise #2 available for download on D2L.**

Week 7

Thursday, February 24

NO RESEARCH CLASS

Week 8

February 28 – March 4, 2022

MIDTERM WEEK - No LS classes this week, HOWEVER...

Tuesday, March 2

5:00 pm Research exercise #2 due – upload final work product to D2L

Week 9

March 5 – March 13, 2022

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 10

Thursday, March 17

NO RESEARCH CLASS

Week 11

Thursday, March 24

Class topics: Searching for court rules, jury instructions, and related explanatory material

Prepare for class: Olson, Ch. 13, 349-376

Class topics: Searching for forms and other materials for handling the nuts and bolts of day to day legal practice

Prepare for class: Olson, Ch. 14, 379-392

Friday, March 25

1:00 pm -- **Research exercise #3 available for download on D2L.**

Week 11

Thursday, March 31

NO RESEARCH CLASS

Week 12

Tuesday, April 5

5:00 pm -- **Research exercise #3 due – upload final work product to D2L.**

Thursday, April 7

Class Topic: Course Review

Thursday, April 14

TIMED FINAL EXAM IS POSTED

Thursday, April 21

TIMED FINAL EXAM IS DUE

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. 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](#).*