Advanced Electronic Legal Research Law 508-1 §401
Intersession 2020

Classroom Information and Time
Times: MTWThF 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Zoom Link: Posted on Class TWEN page

Contact Information
Instructor: Alicia G. Jones
Office: Room 168A (Law Library)
Email: agjones@siu.edu
Phone: 618-453-8780
Method of Contact: email

Description
This course is designed to provide the student with the necessary information and skills to evaluate and utilize online resources for legal research. The course will build upon the basic research skills introduced in Law 503A and 504A, Lawyering Skills I and II. Emphasis will be given to helping the student develop strategies for becoming an efficient and effective legal researcher using both legal and non-legal research tools. Students will receive advanced training in Westlaw, Lexis, and other commercial and free online research systems and resources.

Course Goals
- Students will learn to perform cost-effective research in subscription databases, like Westlaw, Lexis, Bloomberg Law, Hein, and FastCase, and non-subscription databases.
- Students will learn how to effectively use internet resources to identify and locate basic legal information.
- Students will learn how to analyze the credibility of online legal and non-legal information

Student Learning Outcomes
- Students will be able to design a research plan to include subscription databases and non-subscription databases, periodical indexes, government resources, and other credible subject specific internet resources.
- Students will be able to evaluate a website to determine if it is a reliable source and its bias.
- Students will be able to determine which online resources to use to perform effective yet cost-efficient research

Learning Objectives
- Perform cost effective research in subscription databases such as Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg Law

- Evaluate free and fee-based electronic resources
- Analyze the credibility of online legal and non-legal information
- Effectively use internet resources to identify and locate basic legal information
- Learn cost-effective legal research strategies

Required Texts

There is no assigned text for this course. The professor will post assigned readings to the class TWEN page.

Class Management System & Technical Requirements

We will use a TWEN page for this course. All assigned class readings and assignments will be posted to the TWEN page.

Students will also need access to SIU VPN to access resources available on the law library's website. Here is the link to SIU Tech page to request VPN access:
https://oit.siu.edu/networkengineering/services/vpn/

Students should register for IICLE access. Here is the link: **https://www.iicle.com/student**

They should also have access to Westlaw, Lexis Advance, and Bloomberg Law. All other databases will be accessed through the SIU Law Library's website: videos. All assignments will be submitted via TWEN.

Bloomberg Law Registration: **https://profile.bna.com/bloomberglaw-activate/**

Instructional Methods

The teaching technique will be a majority lecture via Zoom. The instructor will use the screen share feature in Zoom to demonstrate how to use the different subscription, non-subscription and internet resources covered in the class. Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, their thoughts on the various resources, including their experiences and problems using the online resources. The instructor will also assign students to small groups to complete and discuss in-class exercises and assignments. Students are expected to contribute to the online discussion

Workload Expectations

The American Bar Association standards for accrediting law schools contain a formula for calculating the amount of work that constitutes one credit hour. According to ABA Standard 310(b)(1), "a "credit hour" is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: (1) 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." This is a 1- credit hour class, meaning that we will spend 5 120-minute blocks of time together each week. The amount of assigned reading and out of class preparation should take you about 2 hours for each class session and 10 hours for the week. All told, applying the ABA standard to the number of credits offered for this class, you should plan on spending a total of **30 hours per week (10 in class and 20 preparing for class) on course-related work**.

Course Requirements

- Students are expected to complete all assigned readings before class.
- Students are expected to take part in all class discussions and online discussion forums about resources.
- All assignments should be submitted via the assignment and quizzes folder on TWEN.

Grading

Although this course is S/U, grading will be based on a variety of assessment methods, including research assignments, quizzes, a final research assignment, and classroom participation. "The grades of students who take this course will be converted by the Registrar according to the following scale:

2.1 or greater = Satisfactory; below 2.1 = Unsatisfactory. Only students who receive a satisfactory grade will earn academic credit for the course."

Assignments: There are three graded assignments covering commercial resources, government information, and legal and non-legal information on the Internet. The assignments will be posted and submitted via TWEN. Each graded assignment will be a maximum of 100 points.

Final Assignment: The final assignment will post to TWEN on May 20, 2020. Students will have until Friday, June 5, 2020 at 5:00 pm to complete the assignment. The final assignment will be a maximum of 500 points.

Class Participation: All assigned readings are expected to be completed before class, so that students are able to fully participate in class discussions and activities. Students are expected to contribute to online discussion forums posted by the instructor. They are allowed to pose questions in the discussion forums or respond to comments posted by their classmates. Participation in class discussions and online discussion forums will be a maximum of 200 points.

Collaboration: You Must work individually on all assignments. Do not discuss your assignments with other class members or any other individuals. You are free to ask me any questions you wish. I will answer only those that can be answered fairly. Please refrain from asking any of the librarians for assistance, except for help in finding the location of materials. They may not show you how to use any materials or make recommendations on how to answer any questions.

Penalty for Late Assignments: A 25 point penalty will be assessed when an assignment is submitted after the due date. A 50 point penalty will be assessed on the final assignment if it is submitted late.

Class Schedule and Topics

May 11, 2020   **Intro. & Review of Legal Sources**

    ABA for Law Students, Before the Bar: The Importance of Legal Research
    https://abaforlawstudents.com/2013/04/01/importance-legal-research/

    Where Legal Information is Stored (Ian Gallacher, Legal Communication and Research --
    Ch. 29)

May 12, 2020   **Cost Effective Searching, Cost Recovery and Advanced Search: Lexis, Westlaw, Bloomberg, and FastCase**

    ABA for Law Students: Before the Bar: Becoming a Cost-Effective Researcher
    https://abaforlawstudents.com/2012/12/01/becoming-cost-effective-researcher/

    Decline of Cost Recovery -- Dewey B. Strategic
    https://www.deweybstrategic.com/2012/11/today-aba-journal-published-article.html

    Westlaw Cost Recovery Solutions -- Legal Solutions Blog - Thomson Reuters
    https://blog.legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/resources/cost-recovery/

    Myth and Madness of Cost Effective Legal Research Training
    https://www.deweybstrategic.com/2011/05/myth-and-madness-of-cost-effective.html

May 13, 2020   **Specialized Propriety Online Systems: BNA/Bloomberg, CCH (Westlaw: Wolters Kluwer), IICLE SmartBooks, MOML, Index to Legal Periodicals, LegalTrac, HeinOnline**

    No assigned pre-class readings.

**** Assignment 1 posts at 12:00 noon – Due on 5/15/2020, 5:00 pm

May 14, 2020   **Government Information on the Internet: Federal, State, Local**

    No assigned pre-class readings.

May 15, 2020   **Introduction to Internet Legal Research**

    Media Bias Chart – The video providing an overview of the Media Bias Chart

-- https://www.adfontesmedia.com/intro-to-the-media-bias-chart/

***Students should choose a topic and look at how the topic is covered on   two different organizations from different sides of the Media Bias Chart. For instance, I decide to look at how Newsmax and Slate handle the issue of voting rights.

In class you will be asked to discuss your topic and the organizations you chose. Consider how the two organizations you chose presented the information, why you chose the two resources, and your thoughts about how the information is presented. You will present this information in class. It will be informal and used to foster class discussion.

Evaluating Resources: Scholarly & Popular Sources
http://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/evaluating-resources

Evaluating Websites and Blogs
http://la w.uakron.libguides.com/evaluating_websites

*****Assignment 2 posts, 12:00 noon – Due on 5/19/2020, 5:00 p.m.

May 18, 2020 **Legal and Non-Legal Information on the Internet: Statistics, Public Policy Centers and Think Tanks, Blogs, People Locating Resources**

Writing About Think Tanks and Using Their Research
https://journalistsresource.org/tip-sheets/think-tanks-writing-research-journalists

A New Frontier in Legal Research: the Specialized Legal Blog
http://taxprof.typepad.com/files/law-blogs.pdf

May 19, 2020 **Legal & Non-Legal Information on the Internet: Morris Library Resources, Google Scholar, LibGuides**

No assigned pre-class reading.

****Assignment 3 posts, 12:00 noon – Due on 5/22/2020, 5:00 pm

May 20, 2020 **Legal Employment Realities**

No assigned pre-class reading.

*****Final Assignment posted – Due on June 5, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

May 21, 2020   Legal Research Apps – Mobile Technology

> Mobile Applications for Law Students and Lawyers
> **http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/c.php?g=183370&p=1208503**
>
> Franklin County Law Library
> http://fclawlib.libguides.com/mobileapps/legal
>
> IPad Apps for Law Students
> http://law.wisc.libguides.com/c.php?g=125287&p=819851
>
> Android Apps for Law Students
> http://law.wisc.libguides.com/c.php?g=125296&p=820177

May 22, 2020   Course Review

> No assigned pre-class readings.

Disability Policy

Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

Emergency Procedures

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these

instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

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) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, http://salukicares.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.

Syllabus Attachment

Spring 2020

IMPORTANT DATES *

Semester Classes Begin:…..….……………………………..01/13/2020
Last day to add full-term course (without Dean's signature): …….01/19/2020
Last day to withdraw from the University with a full refund:…….01/24/2020
Last day to drop a full-term course for a credit/refund:…………..01/26/2020
Last day to drop a full-term course (W grade, no refund):………..03/29/2020
Final examinations: …….………………………………05/4—05/8/2020

Note: Please verify the above dates with the Registrar calendar and find more detailed information on deadlines at https://registrar.siu.edu/calendars. For add/drop dates that apply to shorter-than-full-term courses, please look at the Schedule of Classes search results at https://registrar.siu.edu/schedclass/index.php

SPRING SEMESTER HOLIDAYS

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday   01/20/2020
Spring Break   03/7—03/15/2020

DIVERSITY

Southern Illinois University Carbondale's goal is to provide a welcoming campus where all of our students, faculty and staff can study and work in a respectful, positive environment free from racism and intimidation. *For more information visit:* https://diversity.siu.edu/#

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

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 https://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.

MILITARY COMMUNITY

There are complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student, and military and veteran related developments can complicate academic life. If you are a member of the military community and in need of accommodations please visit Veterans Services at https://veterans.siu.edu/

STUDENT MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER

The Student Multicultural Resource Center serves as a catalyst for inclusion, diversity and innovation. As the Center continues its work, we are here to ensure that you think, grow and succeed. We encourage you to stop by the Center, located in the Student Services Building Room 140, to see the resources available and discover ways you can get involved on the campus. *Visit us at* https://smrc.siu.edu/

SALUKI CARES

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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: https://safe.siu.edu

MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS: https://libguides.lib.siu.edu/hours

ADVISEMENT: https://advisement.siu.edu/

SIU ONLINE: https://online.siu.edu/

WITHDRAWAL POLICY ~ *Undergraduate only*

Students who officially register for a session must officially withdraw from that registration in a timely manner to avoid being charged as well as receiving a failing grade for those classes. An official withdrawal must be initiated by the student, or on behalf of the student through the academic unit, and be processed by the Registrar's office. For the proper procedures to follow when dropping courses and when withdrawing from SIU visit: https://registrar.siu.edu/students/withdrawal.php

INCOMPLETE POLICY~ *Undergraduate only*

An INC grade may be assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments for the course. An INC must be changed to a completed grade within one full semester (undergraduates), and one full year (graduate students), from the close of the term in which the course was taken or graduation, whichever occurs first. Should the student fail to complete the remaining course requirements within the time period designated, the incomplete will be converted to a grade of F and such grade will be computed in the student's grade point average. *For more information visit:* https://registrar.siu.edu/grades/incomplete.php

REPEAT POLICY

An undergraduate student may, for the purpose of raising a grade, enroll in a course for credit more than once. For students receiving a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F, the course repetition must occur at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Effective for courses taken Summer 2013 or later, only the most recent (last) grade will be calculated in the overall GPA and count toward hours earned.

This policy will be applied to all transferrable credit in that only the last grade will be used to calculate grade point average. Only those courses taken at the same institution are considered repeats under this policy. *See full policy at* https://registrar.siu.edu/students/repeatclasses.php

SIU's EARLY WARNING INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EWIP)

Students enrolled in courses participating in SIU's Early Warning Intervention Program might be contacted by University staff during a semester. More information can be found at the Core Curriculum's Overview webpage: https://corecurriculum.siu.edu/program-overview/

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 though text and email alerts. *To register for alerts visit:* https://emergency.siu.edu/

CENTER FOR LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Help is within reach. Learning support services offers free tutoring on campus and math labs. To find more information please visit the Center for Learning and Support Services website:
Tutoring : https://clss.siu.edu/tutoring/
Math Labs https://math.siu.edu/courses/course-help.php

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center offers free tutoring services to all SIU students and faculty. To find a Center or Schedule an appointment please visit: https://write.siu.edu/

GRADUATE POLICIES

Graduate policies often vary from Undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, please refer to the graduate catalog at https://gradschool.siu.edu/about-us/grad-catalog/

Need help with an issue? Please visit SALUKI SOLUTION FINDER at https://solutionfinder.siu.edu/

PLAGIARISM

See the Student Conduct Code https://srr.siu.edu/student-conduct-code/