COURSE INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS

Textbook:

There is no required textbook for this course. Many of the assigned readings can be found in Fundamentals of Legal Research (8th ed.) by Mersky and Dunn (KF240/.J3/2002) and Legal Research in a Nutshell (8th ed.) by Cohen and Olson (KF240/.C6/2000). Both of these titles are kept on reserve.

Class Attendance and Grading:

Course requirements include the following:

- final examination (take home; due no later than noon on 6-3 in the Records Office);
- completion of extensive library assignments and any other class assignments;
- readings for each class;
- class attendance and participation;
- completion of assigned CALI exercises:

  American Law Reports
  Researching Federal Administrative Regulations
  Federal Legislative History Research
  Compiled Legislative History
  Introduction and Sources of Authority for Administrative Law
  Researching Uniform and Model Laws
  Rulemaking: Federal Register and CFR
  Using the Restatements of the Law
  Students will also need to complete the online Lexis and Westlaw courses as announced in class.

You are expected to complete the reading assignments prior to class.
You are allowed **no more than 180 minutes of absences during interim**. The course is graded on a numeric scale running from zero to 4.0. The final exam will be graded anonymously.

You must also complete and pass all library exercises. These exercises are graded P/F. I will deduct points for assignments that are turned in late. All answer sheets for these exercises **must be typed or written very neatly. Retain a copy of your answer sheet until I have returned a graded copy.**

My office is located in room 216 of the library. I’m in the building every weekday, although I am usually missing on Wednesday afternoons, and am generally available at any time to answer questions. I would rather not, however, answer long, involved questions on the mornings prior to our class meetings. You can call me at 348-6426, or email me at Rmarshal@law.ua.edu (include only one L in the email address).

**SYLLABUS: WEEK ONE**

**May 12**  
Class requirements, review

Review will include a discussion of how to find and update cases and statutes, as well as a basic review of Lexis and Westlaw technique. Emphasis will be on the key number system.

Skim Mersky, pp. 81-112; Olsen, chapter 3.

**Westlaw Lexis review**

Library Exercise 1 will be uploaded to e-reserves on 5-13; it will be due no later than

**May 16**  
Statutory Law
Legislative History

Olsen, chapter 6

Please look at the following URL prior to class:

http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook/fed-leg-hist.htm

May 17  Research in Statutory Construction
Secondary Source Materials

Skim Olsen, chapter 2

Skim Mersky, pp. 115-131; 350-360

May 18  Briefs and Records

Administrative Law

Internet

Library Exercise 2 will be handed out at the beginning of class; it is due in class on Monday, May 23.

May 19  Administrative Law (continued)

Alabama Legal Research

WEEK TWO

May 23  Alabama Legal Research (continued)
Personal Injury Litigation/Employment Litigation

Library exercise 3 will be handed out in class today; it will be due on May 25

May 24

Initiating the Research Process

Judicial research

Unpublished opinions

Foreign Law Sources

Mersky, pages 453-499

May 25

Review

The take home exam will be handed out today. The completed exam must be returned to the Records Office without exceptions no later than NOON on Friday, June 3.