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:

The class will meet as follows: Friday, May 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Monday, May 14 through Friday, May 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Course requirements include the following:

- final examination (take home; due no later than noon on 5-25 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.

SYLLABUS: WEEK ONE

May 11  

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 5-10; it will be due no later than May 14

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 14

Research in Statutory Construction
Secondary Source Materials

Skim Olsen, chapter 2

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

Library Exercise 2 will be handed out at the beginning of class; it is due in class on May 15.

May 15

Briefs and Records

Administrative Law

Internet Library exercise 3 will be handed out in class today; it will be due on May 16

May 16

Alabama Legal Research

Personal Injury Litigation/Employment Litigation

Library exercise 4 will be handed out in class today; it will be due in my office or mailbox on May 17.

May 17

Initiating the Research Process

Judicial research

Unpublished opinions

Foreign Law Sources
Mersky, pages 453-499
May 18  Review

Take home exam will be handed out today in class. It will be due in the Records Office no later than June 1 at noon.