Advanced Legal Research
Spring 2013
Law 612
University of Alabama School of Law
Robert Marshall

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* (9th ed.) by Mersky, et al. (KF240/.J3/2010) 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 course meets each Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
Course requirements include the following:

- final examination (take home; due in the Records Office no later than noon on 5-7);
- completion of library assignments;
- readings for each class;
- class attendance and participation;
- completion of assigned CALI exercises:
  
  Agency Decisions and Orders
  American Law Reports
  Attorney General Materials
  Researching Federal Administrative Regulations
  Federal Legislative History Research - Compiled
  Legislative History
  Internal Agency Materials
  Introduction and Sources of Authority for Administrative Law
  Researching Uniform and Model Laws
You are expected to complete the reading assignments prior to class. You are allowed *no more than five unexcused absences* during the semester. 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 may 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 221 of the library. I’m in the building every weekday, 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**

1-9 to 1-18  
Class requirements, description of project; review

Review will include a discussion of how to find and update cases and statutes, as well as a basic review of administrative law materials and Westlaw-Lexis technique.

Lee F. Peoples, *The Death of the Digest and the Pitfalls of Electronic Research: What is...*
the Modern Legal Researcher to Do? Online at http://tinyurl.com/momehw

1-23 to 2-1  Statutory Law

2-6 to 2-13  Legislative History

   Olsen, chapter 6
   Mersky, chapter 10

Please look at the following URL prior to class:

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

2-15 to 2-20  Research in Statutory Construction

   Secondary Source Materials

   Skim Olsen, chapter 2

2-22 to 3-8  Administrative Law

   Olsen, chapter 7

3-13 to 3-22  Alabama Legal Research

4-3 to 4-5  Westlaw/ Lexis/ Internet

4-10 to 4-12  Personal Injury Litigation/Employment Litigation

4-16 to 4-19  Review
4-19  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, May 7.

5-7  Final exam due no later than noon in the Records Office. If you are unable to meet this deadline, contact the Records Office. Please DO NOT contact me.

If this due date is changed during the semester, it will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to keep up with these changes.