Advanced Legal Research  
Summer 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 M-Thursday  

Course requirements include the following:  

- final examination (take home; due in the Records Office no later than noon on 7-9);  
- 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
Rulemaking: Federal Register and CFR
Using the Restatements of the Law

Students will also need to complete any 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 three 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, 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

5-27 to 5-30 Class requirements, description of project; review; statutory law

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.

6-3 to 6-5 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

6-6 Research in Statutory Construction

Secondary Source Materials

Skim Olsen, chapter 2

6-10 to 6-12 Administrative Law

Olsen, chapter 7

6-13 to 6-18 Alabama Legal Research

6-19 to 6-20 Westlaw/ Lexis/ Internet

6-24 Personal Injury Litigation/Employment Litigation

6-25 to 6/27 Review, with continued discussion of issues regarding search technique
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, July 9.

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.