Course Overview & Objectives

Overview
This course reinforces and expands upon the topics and themes introduced in the first-year legal research course. Federal, state, and local resources, in a variety of formats, will be covered as appropriate to each topic.

Class time will be a mix of lecture, guided demonstration, and exercises providing students an opportunity to practice research skills. Course work will focus on assignments, exercises, and online quizzes. Course assessment is explained in further detail below but, in general, will call upon students to apply techniques and resources discussed in class and assigned readings.

Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the organization and arrangement of legal information in various formats;
- Develop effective search strategies, including constructing effective keyword searches and utilizing research tools and finding aids as appropriate;
- Develop and utilize a legal research plan and research log;
- Analyze, evaluate, and properly apply primary and secondary legal information sources, selecting those most appropriate for any given legal research problem;
- Effectively locate and verify the validity of primary legal information sources, including cases, statutes, and regulations;
- Understand the growing role of legal analytics in legal research and the practice of law;
- Find pertinent information related to public U.S. companies;
- Locate and verify the validity of U.S. treaties and international agreements; and
- Effectively summarize relevant legal information to a given set of facts and be able to explain and evaluate the process and sources utilized to support that summary.
Text and Materials
The core text for the course is: J.D.S. ARMSTRONG, ET AL., WHERE THE LAW IS: AN INTRODUCTION TO ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH 5TH (2018) (“ARMSTRONG”).

Additional readings and materials will be made available on the course webpage, which is accessible via Lexis Classroom. Instructions for accessing Lexis Classroom and the course webpage are included below.

Ownership or access to a laptop, tablet, or other device capable of accessing web-based legal research databases (e.g., Westlaw, Lexis), as well as the course page is strongly encouraged for each in-class meeting.

Assignments may include components requiring access to Westlaw, Lexis, or Bloomberg Law. In order to demonstrate proficiency, students are responsible to ensure that they have working passwords for all three services.

Course Expectations
Overview
The course grade will be based on a number of assignments, exercises, and quizzes distributed throughout the semester. Students will be expected to demonstrate an ability to locate materials in both physical and electronic formats. Please review the online course page for specific distribution and due dates, but, in general, assignments will become available online at 6pm on Wednesday and will be due at 11:59pm on the date specified.

Students are advised that this is a graded course subject to the “School of Law Distribution of Grades” guidelines as outlined in the Grading policy. Further details about applicable course, School of Law, and UA policies may be found at the end of this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
<th>Assignment Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>150 pts total</td>
<td>15% total</td>
<td>6pm Wed. 2/20 – 11:59pm Sun. 3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quiz #1 (Legislation)</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6pm Wed. 3/6 – 11:59pm Wed. 3/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quiz #2 (Cases)</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6pm Wed. 3/27 – 11:59pm Sun. 4/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quiz #3 (Regulations)</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6pm Wed. 4/10 – 11:59pm Sun. 4/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quiz #4 (Business)</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6pm Wed. 4/17 – 11:59pm Sun. 4/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quiz #5 (U.S. Treaties)</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Assignment</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
<td>15% total</td>
<td>6pm Wed. 4/10 – 11:59pm, Fri. 3/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Assignment</td>
<td>600 pts</td>
<td>60% total</td>
<td>6pm Wed. 4/10 – 11:59pm, Wed. 5/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; In-class Exercises</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>10% total</td>
<td>Varies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online Quizzes (15%)
A total of 5 quizzes will unlock over the course of the semester, each one corresponding to one thematic Module. Each quiz may be begun and completed at any time between when the quiz is posted and when it is due. On average, students are anticipated to spend 60 to 90 minutes to compete a quiz. Quizzes are not timed but may only be submitted once.
Short Assignment (15%)
The Short Assignment will call upon the student to apply skills and resources covered in the first
several modules. The final work product will include a Research Plan, a Research Log, and a
brief writing assignment requiring students to discuss the legal sources and research methods
used.

Research Assignment (60%)
The Research Assignment will cover additional course modules in addition to those covered in
the Short Assignment. The final work product will include a Research Plan, a Research Log, and
an intermediate writing assignment calling upon students to discuss the legal sources and
research methods used.

Attendance, Participation, and In-Class Exercises (10%)
Throughout the semester there will be a number of exercises distributed during scheduled class
meetings which will give students the opportunity for “hands-on” practice. While these
exercises are not themselves graded, completion of, and participation in, discussions related to
the exercises will provide the primary means of assessment for participation.

Course Schedule
This course is divided into seven thematic “Modules.” Below you will find a general schedule of course
topics and readings under each Module. A more detailed calendar of events is available via the online
course page.  Please note that this syllabus and all scheduled class meetings and assignments are
subject to change during the semester.

Module 1: The Skills of Legal Research
   Class Dates: Jan. 9 – Jan. 16
   Text: Armstrong, Chapters 1 & 15
   Additional Materials: Reading Supplements

Module 2: Secondary Authorities
   Class Dates: Jan. 23 – Jan. 30
   Text: Armstrong, Chapters 4, 6, 7, & 9
   Additional Materials: Reading Supplements

Module 3: Legislative Law
   Class Dates: Feb. 6 – Feb. 20
   Text: Armstrong, Chapters 2, 3, & 14
   Additional Materials: Reading Supplements; Legislative History Handout

Module 4: Judicial Law
   Class Dates: Feb. 27 – March 6
   Text: Armstrong, Chapters 5 & 10
   Additional Materials: Reading Supplements
Spring Break 3/11-3/15

Module 5: Regulatory Law  
Class Dates: March 20 – March 27  
Text: Armstrong, Chapters 8 & 11  
Additional Materials: “Reg Map” Handout

Module 6: Practical Research – Legal Analytics & Business Research  
Class Dates: April 3 – April 10  
Text: None  
Additional Materials: Reading Supplements

Module 7: U.S. Treaties  
Class Dates: April 17 (Last Class)  
Text: Armstrong, Chapters 12 & 13  
Additional Materials: Reading Supplements

Using Lexis Classroom for this class

About Lexis Classroom and the course page  
Most class assignments, handouts, and materials will be made available via the course page in Lexis Classroom. Lexis Classroom is an instance of Canvas, a commercial course management program. You can find generic, student focused FAQs and Help documents from Canvas here: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701 (Links to an external site.)

Getting Started with Lexis Classroom

2. Once you are at the law school landing screen, you should see a menu for Lexis Classroom, like the one below. Click on the “My Courses” link to go to your enrolled courses, and to add a course, click on the “Add Course” link.
3. To add a class, find the instructor’s name. All active courses by that instructor will be listed. You are looking for the course “Advanced Legal Research, Spring 2019 (ALR_Spring2019).”  
This course requires the use of special passcode to register: AKALBP
4. The “My Courses” link will take you to your dashboard. From here, you can access any courses you have enrolled in.
**Syllabus & Calendar**

The Syllabus page will include both online and downloadable versions of the Syllabus, as well as a schedule of all class meetings and assignment due dates.

There is also a Calendar view that will show you all class meetings and assignment due dates. This view includes the option to add the course calendar feed to your calendar of choice (e.g. Google Calendars, Outlook, etc.). *Using the calendar feed is strongly encouraged.*

Instructions for using the Calendar Feed are available here: [https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10691-4212717348](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10691-4212717348) (Links to an external site.)

Clicking on a calendar event, either on the Syllabus or on the calendar, will open that event and provide additional details, such as reading assignments or links to other content.

**Modules & Pages**

Class content pages are grouped under "Modules." There are seven thematic modules corresponding with the topics we will cover, as outlined on the Syllabus. Modules will unlock as the course progresses.

Under each Module will be a “Resources” page which will contain links to reading supplements, handouts, slide decks, and other content relevant to that Module.

**Assignments**

Assignments and quizzes are scheduled to unlock as the course progresses. Each assignment will include instructions for completing the assignment, as well as links to necessary course files (e.g. the Research Log) for that assignment.

Completed assignments are to be submitted via Lexis Classroom. Instructions for submitting assignments are available on the course page. The instructions will also be linked from within each assignment.

Quizzes are completely online. You will receive your quiz grade upon completion. Please note that I will monitor quiz grades for problems and will manually adjust grades as necessary.

**Policies**

**Attendance Policy**

The School of Law [Class Attendance policy](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10691-4212717348) applies. Students may miss class only for good cause and may not miss more than three class hours per semester credit hour. As applied to Advanced Legal Research, students may miss *no more than three* of the two-hour class meetings.

**Academic Conduct**

Be advised that the University of Alabama School of Law Honor Code applies at all times: [www.law.ua.edu/students/honorcouncil/](http://www.law.ua.edu/students/honorcouncil/).
All University of Alabama School of Law students are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The Law School expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any help, attempt to help, or conspiracy to help another student.

The University of Alabama has also established the Code of Student Conduct which prescribes and defines other forms of misconduct for all students: [http://policies.ua.edu/conduct.html](http://policies.ua.edu/conduct.html).

**Disability Policy**
The Law School is committed to meeting the needs of students with physical, learning, and other disabilities, and provides appropriate accommodations and services tailored to each person’s specific requirements. The Law School and the University’s Office of Disability Services (ODS) work together to help individuals with disabilities achieve and maintain individual autonomy.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Associate Dean Grace Lee at (205) 348-7190 or glee@law.ua.edu so that the individual’s needs for support services can be evaluated and accommodated in a timely manner. Students may also wish to review ODS information for current students at the ODS website: [http://ods.ua.edu/students/](http://ods.ua.edu/students/).

**Nondiscrimination Policy**
The University of Alabama is committed to providing an inclusive environment that is free from harassment or discrimination based on race, genetic information, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, age, ability, size, or veteran status. The University of Alabama prohibits any verbal or physical conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any individual or group, including physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, sexual misconduct, coercion, and/or other communication or conduct that creates a hostile living or learning environment. Harassment or other illegal discrimination against individuals or groups not only is a violation of University Policy and subject to disciplinary action, but also is inconsistent with the values and ideals of the University.