

LEG 215 – Legal Research and Writing

Course Description

This course covers legal research and writing. Students use research and technical skills obtained from prior courses to conduct legal research. Students will analyze problems, develop a research strategy, access information using primary and secondary sources, and draft legal documents. In addition, this course stresses the functional approach to research and develops skills in case law, statutes, administrative regulations, and constitutional law. Students also conduct book-based and computer-based research.

Instructional Materials

Association of Legal Writing Directors & Barger, C. M. (2014). *ALWD guide to legal citation* (5th ed.). New York: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business.

Bouchoux, D. E. (2013). *Legal research and writing for paralegals* (7th ed.). New York: Aspen.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the types of law libraries, their uses, and sources of law in the U.S.
2. Describe the publication and codification of statutory law, and the publication of case laws and judicial opinions.
3. Research information using primary and secondary sources.
4. Develop effective research strategies, and conduct effective and efficient research using conventional sources, the Internet, and computer-assisted legal research.
5. Use the rules for citation form for primary and secondary authorities as well as the use of signals such as *id.*, *supra*, *infra*, etc.
6. Demonstrate the process of updating and validating primary sources (cases, statutes, constitutions, administrative, regulations, local ordinances, etc.).
7. Develop effective legal writing skills using the following techniques: precision, clarity, readability, brevity, and order.
8. Use technology and information resources to research issues in legal research and writing.
9. Write clearly and concisely about legal research and writing using proper writing mechanics.