**Law Librarianship: Introduction to Legal Research**

**INLS 690-170 (1.5 credit hours)**

**Fall 2017**

**Course Information & Syllabus**

**Course Objectives**

1. To introduce students to the major legal publishers, databases, and vendors, including primary and secondary legal resources.
2. To instruct students in strategies for conducting basic legal research and finding legal information.
3. To expose students to sources of information relevant to answering patrons’ legal questions.

The class will meet from 9:30 – 10:45 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 3031, Kathrine R. Everett Law Library.

**Professor**

Nick Sexton

Reference Librarian & Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Head of Access Services and Interim Assistant Director for Public Services

Room 4025 in the Law Library (behind the reference desk)

Phone: 919-843-7898

Email: nsexton@email.unc.edu

Office hours: Generally available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, or by appointment. On the reference desk Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm.

**Prerequisites**

Open to students enrolled in the School of Information and Library Science.

**Required Text**

There is no required textbook. A variety of legal research texts will be brought into class by the professor and examined during class. Course readings will be available on Sakai or on course reserve.

**Grading**

* In-class exercises and class participation 20%
* Research Assignments (four) 80%

**Due Dates and Other Requirements**

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on their respective due dates. Any assignment handed in after the beginning of class at 9:30 am will be reduced by 5%. Starting after class ends that day, your grade will be reduced by an additional 5% for each 24-hour period or portion thereof that the assignment is late. After the answer key is posted, late submissions will not be accepted and any student who has not turned in an assignment will receive zero credit. All assignments must be turned in electronically via Sakai.

**In-Class Exercises and Participation**

In-class exercises will be distributed during class and are designed to be completed during the class period. In-class exercises will count toward your participation grade and will be submitted to the professor for review at the end of each class. All students should be active and engaged when discussing these exercises in class. Students with laptop computers should plan to bring a laptop to each class.

The course readings generally describe legal research tools and materials. In-class discussions will address using resources (i.e., skills and strategies). You are responsible for the material in the reading assignments which may not be reviewed in class. Students who are unprepared for class may not receive full class participation points.

**Laptops in the Classroom**

Laptops are an important part of this class and when used correctly can enhance your learning experience. It is important to note, however, that use of your laptop for surfing the web, instant messaging, social networking, or other unapproved activities during class can negatively impact your class participation grade. The professor reserves the right to deduct class participation points without notice.

**Assignments**

**Research Assignments:** There will be four graded research assignments. Assignments must be turned in electronically via Sakai.

**In-class Exercises**: A variety of in-class exercises will be given throughout the semester.

**Attendance/Class Participation**

Attendance will be taken every class period. It is important that students attend all classes. This course is designed to give students hands-on experience with legal research. Students need to attend all classes to hear the lectures and participate in the in-class exercises. Failure to participate in class and during the in-class exercises will affect this component of your grade. Students are permitted two excused absences. Students do not need to notify the professor of the reason for an absence unless absences exceed this number.

**Honor Code**

“The UNC Honor Code prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid in the completion of assignments. Students are strongly encouraged to cooperate and assist one another and share insights and respective expertise in this course. I expect that you will acknowledge the support you receive from your colleagues (this may be done in acknowledgements at the end of assignments or projects). It is crucial, however, that in every case where you use the actual written words of others, that these be properly quoted and cited. When you build arguments upon the ideas of others, the originators of those ideas should also be cited.” —INLS 490: Issues in Digital Video, Spring 2010. Instructor: Gary Marchionini

**Syllabus Changes**

Students will be notified if there is a change in this syllabus.

**Course Calendar\***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | TOPIC | READING | ASSIGNMENTS |
| Tuesday 8/22/2017 | Introduction &Review of Basics |  |  |
| Thursday 8/24/2017 | Research Strategy | How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers:<http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Publications/products/How-To-Research-A-Legal-Problem/howtoresearchlegalproblem.pdf> |  |
| Tuesday 8/29/2017 | Secondary Sources | Guide to Secondary Legal Resources:<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/secondary-rsrcs.php> | Research Assignment #1 Distributed |
| Thursday 8/31/2017 | Secondary Sources |  | Research Assignment #1 DUE |
| Tuesday 9/5/2017 |  Constitutions & Cases | How to Locate Free Case Law on the Internet:<http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2013/02/how-to-locate-free-case-law-on-the-internet/> |  |
| Thursday 9/7/2017 | Cases |  |  |
| Tuesday 9/12/2017 | Statutes | Researching Federal Statutes:<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes.php> | Research Assignment #2 Distributed |
| Thursday 9/14/2017 | Statutes |  | Research Assignment #2 DUE |
| Tuesday 9/19/2017 | Regulations (Administrative Law) | Guide to Administrative Law:<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/administrative.php> |  |
| Thursday 9/21/2017 | Regulations (Administrative Law) |  | Research Assignment #3 Distributed |
| Tuesday 9/26/2017 | Court Rules | Locating Court Rules:<https://law.duke.edu/lib/researchguides/courtr/> | Research Assignment #3 DUE |
| Thursday 9/28/2017 | Municipal Law | Municode:<https://library.municode.com/> |  |
| Tuesday 10/3/2017 | Foreign & International Law | GlobaLex:<http://www.nyulawglobal.org/Globalex/index.html> | Research Assignment #4 Distributed |
| Thursday 10/5/2017 | Free and Low-Cost Research Online |  | Research Assignment #4 DUE |

\*The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates, when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible.