

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

LEGL 1203 Legal Research and Writing II

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 2

Laboratory Hours: 2

Prerequisites: LEGL 1043 Introduction to Law, LEGL 1103 Legal Research and Writing I, and ENGL 1203 Composition I or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition, or consent of program director.

Prerequisite or corequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or RHET 2863 Advanced Composition

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Focuses on legal analysis, writing and proper use of legal research. Students will learn to identify and address the inherent issues by using actual case situations and a variety of legal resources. Self-directed legal research and preparation of interoffice memoranda, briefs, motions and other legal documents are major components of the course.

B. Additional Information

This course is intended as a follow up to Legal Research and Writing I. It is designed to build on the knowledge and skills taught in that course by reinforcing those concepts with progressively more difficult research and writing assignments. Refinement and extensive use of the skills learned in Legal Research and Writing I will be required.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Properly write a case brief dissecting any given case opinion into its component parts.
2. Given a new set of facts, apply the holding of a case opinion to predict an outcome.
3. Given a hypothetical set of facts, apply a statute to predict an outcome.

4. Engage in self-guided legal research to locate legal material in the UAFS Boreham Library or county law library which is relevant to a legal problem.
5. Given a hypothetical controversy, write an interoffice memorandum of law based upon research and analysis.
6. Write a persuasive letter to a client or administrative agency.
7. Distinguish between advocacy writing and objective analysis and prepare documents of both types.
8. Write a legal brief or memo persuasively arguing for a particular legal position.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will prepare relatively complex legal documents which convey a reasoned point of view. Students will use legal terminology in writing and preparing legal research papers.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills - Students will identify legal issues being raised in a case or fact pattern as well as identify the rules that are relied upon to resolve the issues. Students will analyze and apply those rules to the issue or fact pattern and reach a logical resolution premised on and grounded in those rules.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in the practice of law.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Analysis of court opinions
- B. The process of litigation
- C. Authority: recognizing different kinds of law
- D. Case briefing
- E. The application of court opinions and statutes to new situations and fact patterns
- F. Using the law library effectively
- G. The proper use of relevant law
- H. Case analysis in legal writing
- I. Writing the memorandum
- J. Interoffice memorandum
- K. Advocacy memorandum
- L. Brief writing