

Legal Research and Writing

Professor Lauren Simpson • Section E-2, Thurs. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Fall 2011 Syllabus (Final)

Lecture	Topic	Class Preparation	Assignment(s) Due
Class 1 Thursday, Aug. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to LRW • Introduction to the U.S. Legal System • Introduction to Legal Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Oates Chs. 2 (all) and 3 (pp. 21-25, 30-31 only; no exercises). • Read first-day reading assignment (copy center), tabs 1-2. • Read Neumann Ch. 8 (no exercises). 	
Class 2 Thursday, Sept. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Understanding Cases • Reading, Understanding, and Deriving Statutory and Common Law Rules • Introduction to Legal Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neumann Chs. 2-6 (all; no exercises) and 9 (pp. 57-58, § 9.4, only). • Read Packet Tab 3. • Skim exercise at Packet Tab 4 (for in-class exercise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise(s) assigned Aug. 25
Class 3 Thursday, Sept. 8 (both sections together because of Labor Day, usual room and time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Analysis: Statutory • Legal Analysis: Common Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neumann Chs. 9 (remainder; no exercises) and 10 (no exercises). • Read Packet Tab 7. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise(s) assigned Sept. 1
Class 4 Thursday, Sept. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating Your Legal Analysis in Writing: CR[e]AC • Introduction to Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neumann Ch. 16. • Read Packet Tabs 8, 9. • <i>Skim</i> Bluebook: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Topics within “bluepages” (pp. 1-27) 2. Rule 10 • <i>Skim</i> ICW Chs. 1-4 (text). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise(s) assigned Sept. 8
Class 5 Thursday, Sept. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating Your Legal Analysis in Writing: CR[e]AC, cont’d • More on Citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neumann Chs. 17-19. • Read Packet Tab 10. • <i>Skim</i> Bluebook Rules 11-12. • <i>Skim</i> ICW Chs. 5-8 (text). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICW Ex. 1

Class 6 Thursday, Sept. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Research: Introduction, Secondary Sources, Cases, Citators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Oates Chs. 3 (pp. 24-29 only), 8, and 11 (no exercises in any chapter). • Skim Packet Tab 11. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ungraded writing assignment #1 (closed research) • ICW Ex. 2
Class 7 Monday, Oct. 3 (both sections together, usual room and time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Research: Statutes, Rules • Introduction to Electronic Legal Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Oates Ch. 4, 5, 10 (no exercises in any chapter) 	
Class 8 Thursday, Oct. 6 (both sections together, usual room and time)	Mandatory WestlawNext & Lexis Advanced Training Session¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review ungraded writing assignment #2 (distributed Oct. 3) before class and bring it to class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICW Ex. 3-4 • Any library exercises assigned Sept. 29
Class 9 Thursday, Oct. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More on Electronic Legal Research: Tips, Tricks, and Practice • The Predictive Memorandum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neumann Ch. 14-15. • Skim sample memoranda at Packet Tab 13. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICW Ex. 5-6
Class 10 Thursday, Oct. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Predictive Memorandum, Cont'd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read remaining item at Packet Tab 13. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICW Ex. 7-8 • Note: The final (graded) legal memorandum problem will be distributed to both sections, via TWEN (“Assignment Drop Box” page), on <u>Thurs., Oct. 20.</u>
Class 11 Monday, Oct. 24 (guest speaker; both sections)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Communications and Correspondence (with in-class exercise) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Neumann Ch. 25-26. • Review in-class exercise for Class 11 in TWEN “Course Materials” folder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ungraded writing assignment #2 (open research)

¹ *Optional but recommended:* after this training session, but before ungraded writing assignment #2 is due, go through Oates § 8.4 sample exercise for WestlawNext or Lexis Advance (or Lexis, if the Lexis Advance exercise is not yet available) [“Using the Research Plan to Research an Issue Governed by Common Law”] and Oates § 4.3 sample exercise for WestlawNext or Lexis Advance [“Using the Research Plan to Research an Issue Governed by State Statutes”].

together, usual room and time)			
Monday, Oct. 31	No class (final examination Thursday)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of sources for final, graded memo. due (submit by email in MSWord or WordPerfect format)
Thursday, Nov. 3 (both sections together, 7:30-8:30 p.m., usual room)		Final Examination	Note: Individual conferences to discuss final memorandum begin <u>Fri., Nov. 4</u> (see sign-up instructions at syllabus, Class 12).
Class 12 Week of Nov. 7	Individual Conferences to Discuss Final Memorandum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No LRW class this week one conference per student schedule on TWEN "Sign-Up Sheets" page 		
Class 13 Thursday, Nov. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editing Plagiarism, Quotations, Ethical Use of Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Neumann Ch. 20-22. Read Packet Tab 14. Read Redbook § 13. 	
Monday, Nov. 21	No classes this week or for rest of semester		Graded Legal Memorandum due at <u>6:00 p.m.</u> on <u>Monday, Nov. 21</u>. Submit via TWEN's "Assignment Drop Box."

- The syllabus may be modified as needed to achieve course objectives.
- When you register for TWEN, please sign up for automated email notification of all TWEN postings.
- Please bring your laptop and Westlaw and LexisNexis passwords to each class.
- Beginning with **Class 4 (September 15)**, please bring your Bluebook and ICW Workbook to each class: as time allows, we may review citation matters even on days for which citation is not noted on the syllabus.