

## ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH

Watson, Fall 2020

<b>Instructor Information</b>	Amanda Watson, JD, MIS Assistant Professor of Law, Director of the John M. O'Quinn Law Library Office: O'Quinn Law Library, Administrative Suite Phone: (713)743-7364 Email: awatson@central.uh.edu
<b>Office Hours/ Communications</b>	Office Hours: TBD first week of class or by Appointment You must register for the course TWEN page.
<b>Required Textbook</b>	<b>There is no required text.</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Class attendance is mandatory and will be recorded for each class meeting.</b> It is your responsibility to note attendance as instructed for each class. Signing or otherwise noting another student's name to the attendance method is not allowed. Excused absences should be arranged prior to class – if at all possible. Failure to arrange for an excused absence may result in an unexcused absence and a deduction in class attendance and participation.
<b>Outcomes</b>	At the end of this semester, you should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the full range of potential sources of information available, regardless of type or format;</li><li>• Develop methods for identifying, analyzing, and articulating the precise legal issues that need to be researched;</li><li>• Develop effective, efficient, and cost-effective research strategies to explore the issues identified; and</li><li>• Gain confidence in your research completed and presented no matter the scope of project or timeframe given.</li></ul>
<b>Grades</b>	Course grades are determined by performance on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Simulations and worksheets total 30%</li><li>• Assignment A (all parts) 20%</li><li>• Resource Presentation 10%</li><li>• Final research project (all parts) 30%</li><li>• Attendance and class participation* 10%</li></ul>

	<p>*This course is intended to help make you practice-ready. As such, participation and practice go hand-in-hand. Examples of class participation include: asking/answering questions, participating in class discussion, participating in in-class quizzes, presentations, or exercises, and meeting with the instructor outside of class. Examples for which points will be deducted include: unexcused absences, use of cell phone, talking with classmates during lecture, and non-class use of your computer.</p> <p>Students with disabilities: It is the policy and practice of the university to create inclusive learning environments. Your learning experience is very important to me. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited projects, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos—please notify the Dean or Students as soon as possible so I can adjust as needed.</p>
<b>Late Work</b>	<p>You are expected to turn in graded assignments by the date and time designated as listed on the course schedule. This course simulates a work environment, so deadlines are strictly enforced. It is your responsibility to communicate any emergencies that may affect your ability to timely submit assignments.</p>
<b>Group Work/Collaboration</b>	<p>Unless specifically designated as collaborative work, all graded assignments must be only your work. No collaboration is allowed. Copying answers or providing answers to copy will be reported to the Honor Board and will result in a zero on the assignment in question for all involved. All quoted material must be in quotations and properly cited.</p>
<b>Computer Policy</b>	<p>Weekly, in-class exercises will require each student to have their own computer that can connect to the law school's wireless network. Please activate and memorize/save all passwords for Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg. If you do not have a computer, please let me know so I can help make arrangements for you.</p>
<b>Counseling and Psychological Services</b>	<p>Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (<a href="http://www.uh.edu/caps">www.uh.edu/caps</a>) by calling 713-7435454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. <a href="http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html">http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html</a>.</p>

<b>Chosen Names and Pronouns</b>	<p>Chosen names and pronouns are to be respected at all times in the classroom. Mistakes in addressing one another may happen, however repeated comments which disrespect or antagonize students who have indicated pronouns or a chosen name will not be tolerated. Chosen name and personal pronouns may evolve over time, so if at any point during the semester you would like to be addressed differently, please let me know.</p>
<b>COVID-19</b>	<p>Under normal circumstances, I strive to make all elements of this course as known as possible from the first day. However, the realities of COVID-19 make this impossible. If we are asked or required to adjust our learning environment over the semester, those adjustments will be announced on TWEN and discussed either during class or by class email. I understand the difficulties this presents, and I will make whatever adjustments to our assignments to make this course as fair as it possibly can be while still achieving the high standard of learning that you all deserve.</p>