

University of Houston Law Center
Fall 2019
Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Research
Syllabus

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Course Description: This is a specialized course on research skills specific to law practice in the fields of environmental, energy, and natural resources (EENR) law. It will focus on federal and state primary legal materials related to EENR, including relevant statutes, regulations, agency guidance and decisions, case law, and data sets. Secondary sources such as treatises and practice guides specific to EENR will also be discussed. Both print and electronic resources related to EENR research will be covered.

Required Text: There is no required text.

Course Time: We will meet on Mondays from 1:00 pm to 1:50 pm

Office Hours: Tuesday, 3pm-5pm & Thursday, 3pm-5pm

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory and will be recorded for each class meeting. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet for each class. Signing another student's name to the attendance sheet is not allowed. Excused absences should be arranged prior to class whenever possible. Failure to arrange for an excused absence may result in an unexcused absence and a deduction in class attendance and participations

Outcomes: At the ends of this semester you should

- Understand the primary sources of primary law for EENR topics and be proficient in their use.
- Develop methods for when and how to use secondary sources and practice materials when researching EENR topics.
- Identify relevant issues and develop effective, efficient, and cost-effective research strategies to explore the issues identified; and
- Gain confidence in your ability to research any EENR topic and the ability to self-determine when the research is correct and complete.

Course grades are determined by performance on the following:

- Midterm Project (take home) 35%
- 35% - Final Project (take home) 45%
- Class attendance and participation* 10%
- Completion of in-class exercises** 10%

*Class participation may include but is not limited to: Completing CALI lessons and quizzes as assigned, participating in class discussion, asking/answering questions, participation in in-class quizzes or exercise, and meeting with the instructor outside of class. Points for participation may be deducted for: unexcused absences, use of cell phone, talking with classmates during lecture, and non-class use of your computer.

** We will begin exercises in class and you will be asked to complete some, but not all, exercises before the next class. When asked to complete an exercise, please return your finished work to the TWEN dropbox before the next class.

All course assignments will be submitted via TWEN and all participants must register for the course page on TWEN.

A Note on CALI Lessons: You must access the lessons assigned through the following link: <https://www.cali.org/courses/5911>. This allows me to see whether or not the lesson has been completed. Please also take a screenshot of the completion screen at the end and deposit in the dropbox on TWEN. I reserve the right to assign additional quizzes as needed to compliment the lesson, and will announce in class if those are used.

Late Work: You are expected to turn in graded assignments by the date and time designated on the course schedule. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. It is your responsibility to communicate any emergencies that may affect your ability to timely submit assignments.

Group Work/Collaboration: Unless specifically designated as collaborative work, all graded assignments must be your work only. No collaboration is allowed. Copying answers or providing answers to copy will be reported to the Honor Board and will result in a score of zero on the assignment in question for all involved. All quoted material must be in quotations and properly cited.

Computer Policy: In-class exercises will require each student to have their own computer that can connect to the law school's wireless network. After the first course meeting, all participants must have registered and accessible accounts for Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg. If you do not have a computer, please let me know so I can assist in making arrangements for you.

Counseling and Psychological Services: 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 (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 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. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html.

Class Date	Topic	Assignment Due
August 19	Introduction	Register for Databases/VPN
August 26	Secondary Sources & Treatises	
September 2	LABOR DAY	No Class
September 9	Case Law	1.
September 16	Statutes	
September 23	Admin. Law & Agencies	
September 30	Agency Materials	
October 7	EENR Practitioner Resources	
October 14	Pre-Emption and Texas Law Mid-Term Assigned	
October 21	Finding and Using Data	
October 28	Finding lost and buried materials	Mid-Term Assignment Due
November 4	Oil & Gas in Practice (guest speaker)	
November 11	Treaty Research	
November 18	Current Awareness	
November 25	Review & Final Exam Instructions	
December 2		Final Exam Released
December 11		Final Exam Due