

TEXAS LEGAL RESEARCH
Dykes, Spring 2026- 5120/15733

Instructor Information	Chris Dykes, JD, MLS, LLM Head of Research and Reference/Lecturer Office: Law Library 421H Phone: (713)743-2306 Email: cdykes@central.uh.edu
Office Hours/ Communications	Office Hours: Via Zoom by Appointment. You must register for the course Blackboard page.
Required Textbook	There is no required text.
Attendance	This course is taught fully online. All aspects of this course, including readings, assignments, and multimedia material such as videos and audio files, will be available online. The course is broken down into weekly units, with assignments due throughout the course.
Outcomes	<p>This course will expand on research skills explored in your first-year lawyering skills and strategies course with a focus on Texas specific resources. Topics for the class will include sources for Texas case law, statutory, and regulatory research; secondary sources and practitioners' materials specific to Texas; and understanding and using Texas legislative histories.</p> <p>Throughout the course, you will learn the research skills typical of a new attorney. You will know how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify a full range of Texas primary and secondary materials available, regardless of type or format• Locate Texas statutes, rules, and regulations using effective and efficient search techniques• Analyze and interpret what you find• Apply your research findings to a set of facts based in Texas law

<p>Grades</p>	<p>Course grades are determined by performance on the following: Class Participation* 15% Graded Assignment 1 20% Graded Assignment 2 25% Graded Assignment 3 40%</p> <p>* Examples of class participation include: weekly activities such as watching videos, completing weekly comprehension quizzes.</p>
<p>Late Work</p>	<p>You are expected to turn in graded assignments by the date and time designated as listed on the course schedule. Deadlines are strictly enforced. It is your responsibility to communicate any emergencies that may affect your ability to timely submit assignments. Failure to timely submit assignments may result in loss of credit for the work in question.</p>
<p>Group Work/Collaboration</p>	<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>
<p>Counseling and Psychological Services</p>	<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 (www.uh.edu/caps) 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. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html.</p>
<p>Syllabus Changes</p>	<p>Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through (specify how students will be notified of changes).</p>

UH Email	Please check and use your Cougarnet email for communications related to this course. To access this email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your Cougarnet credentials.
AI Generated Text	<p>The software technology known as artificial intelligence has recently expanded its capability to generate text (AI Generated Text). Examples of the technology include what are known as “generative” large language models (LLMs), and a specific implementation what is well known in the general public is ChatGPT. These systems can generate text in response to prompts and/or input of other text/documents/code/images. The output, the AI Generated Text, appears to have human-mimicking “intelligence” and is thus potentially usable as a substitute for written work product one might generate themselves. AI Generated Text can include computer code or programs as well as human language content.</p> <p>Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to not prompt, generate, obtain, read, or use any AI Generated Text in relation to any activity or assessment in this course. This applies to AI Generated Text from yourself or others. This pledge includes that your assessment work product in the course is without any contribution from AI Generated Text. This specifically extends to the plagiarism policy and unauthorized aid/materials parts of the Honor Code: AI Generated Text will be treated as from another/other in applying the plagerism policy to this course. The term “assessment” means any work product generated for this course that is submitted to the instructor or presented in a class session, regardless whether it is graded content or not. Assessments include mid-terms and final exams. AI Generated Text may not be used in the development or drafting of any assessments created by you in a non-proctored environment, such as a “take-home” final examination unless specified as an exception below. The parts of the Honor Code that refer to unauthorized materials or aid are specifically prohibited from any use of AI Generated Text in this course unless specified as an exception below.</p> <p>The following activities are exceptions to the immediately preceding paragraph; the intent of these exceptions is to allow use of AI Generated Text for specifically and narrowly defined activities in relation to this course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Creating content for an outline that you use to summarize the course content- “conversing” with the AI Generated Text software system to create hypotheticals to better understand course content, alone or with others

	<p>- checking text drafted by you for misspellings, grammar and punctuation errors, strength and clarity of prose, verbosity, effective transitional language and thesis sentences, word choice, excessive passive voice, and like things</p>
<p>Title IX/Sexual Misconduct</p>	<p>Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a</p> <p>report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/.</p>
<p>Honor Code</p>	<p>The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code’s provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.</p>
<p>Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids</p>	<p>The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with Disabilities).</p>