

# Course Syllabus

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**Department** : Legal Assistant

**Course Title** : Legal Research & Writing

**Section Name** : LGLA\_1301\_WB

**Start Date** : 01/18/2011

**End Date** : 05/06/2011

**Modality** : ONLINE

**Credits** : 3 hours

## Instructor Information

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**Name** : Kayla Zeigenbein

**OC Email** : kzeigenbein@odessa.edu

**OC Phone #** : (432) 335-6485

Office Hours for Spring 2011

Monday - 10:00 - 12:00

Tuesday - 9:00 - 12:00

Wednesday - 10:00 - 12:00

Thursday - 9:00 - 12:00

Friday by appointment only

**Monitored and open labs available daily. Help from the instructor is available at your request. Appointments can be set up or you may contact instructor during office hours. Tutoring is available through the LRC.**

## Course Description

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**This course presents the fundamentals of legal research and writing. Topics include standard and electronic legal research, and legal writing techniques including case and fact analysis and citation format.**

### **Prerequisites/Corequisites**

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**None.**

### **Scans**

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(1, 4, 6, 7)

### **Course Objectives**

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- 1.1 Describe the historical origins of the civil litigation and the research process.
- 1.2\* Identify key legal terms.
- 1.3\* List the computer hardware used in the law office setting and explain its function.
- 1.4\* Identify major components of the litigation process and explain.
- 1.5 Define the role of the paralegal in Legal Research and Writing.
- 1.6\* List and explain the key documents in the civil litigation process.
- 1.10 Draft legal documents and memoranda.
- 1.11 List the techniques for conducting Legal Research and Writing.
- 1.12 List and explain the I.R.A.C method in writing.
- 1.13\* Identify and use research tools to locate law.
- 1.14 Discuss overview of the Legal Research and Writing process.

\*INDICATES INTEGRATED, CORE CURRICULUM SKILLS  
(Math, Reading, Communication, Technological Literacy and/or Critical Thinking)

### **Required Materials**

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**Legal Research and Writing for Paralegals, Tepper/Bevans, McGraw-Hill 2009.**

**Course Requirements (Lectures, Assignments and Assessments)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Description</b>
Chapter will open at midnight on first date listed and close at 11:55 pm on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> date listed.		
1/18 – 1/23	Student Information Sheet – Complete and submit	
1/24 – 1/30	Chapter 1 – Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	The American Legal System: navigating through the Process
1/31 – 2/6	Chapter 2 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	The Sources of the Law: What's in a Law Library
2/7 – 2/13	Chapter 3 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	Case Law and Reporters: Finding Judges' Opinions
2/14 – 2/20	Chapter 4 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test and multiple choice test	Understanding and Briefing of Case Decisions
2/21 – 2/27	Chapter 5 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	Researching Constitutions, Statutes, and Administrative Rules and Regulations
2/28 – 3/6	Chapter 6 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	Legal Research Finding Tools: The Traditions and New Trends
3/7 – 3/13	Chapter 7 - Complete review	Updating the Law:

	questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test and multiple choice test	Shepard's Citations and KeyCite
3/14 – 3/20	Chapter 8 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	Online Search Techniques: Learning the Methods
3/21 – 3/27	Chapter 11 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test and multiple choice test	Introduction to Legal Writing
3/28 – 4/3	Chapter 12 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	The Mechanics of Construction
4/4 – 4/10	Chapter 13 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	Effective and Persuasive Legal Writing
4/11 – 4/17	Chapter 14 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test and multiple choice test	Citations in Legal Writing
4/18 – 4/24	Chapter 15 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test, multiple choice test and discussion board question	The Basics of Legal Correspondence
4/25 – 5/1	Chapter 16 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test and multiple choice test	The Internal Office Memorandum
5/2 – 5/8	Chapter 18 - Complete review questions, vocabulary quiz, true/false test and multiple choice test	The Memorandum of Law to the Trial Court
<b>5/9 – 5/11</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>COMPREHENSIVE</b>

## Grading Policy

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Each week, I will provide grades or scores and comments on assignments within 6 days of when they were submitted.

Grading Scales	Grading Percentages
A = 5130 - 5700	Assignments - 20%
B = 4560 - 5129	Vocabulary Quizzes - 10%
C = 3990 - 4559	Discussion Board - 10%
D = 3420 - 3989	Tests - 40%
F = below 3419 points	Final Exam - 10%

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### Special Needs

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

### Learning Resource Center (Library)

The Library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the [LRC's catalog \(print books, videos, e-books\)](#) and [databases \(journal and magazine articles\)](#). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the ["Ask a Librarian"](#) service provide additional help.

### Student E-mail

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

### Student Portal

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](#), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

## **Technical Support**

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

## **Important School Policies**

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For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or student's and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).

### **Disclaimer**

**\*Students are responsible for checking for changes frequently as this syllabus may be updated often, as needed.**