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LEG 186T.01: Introduction to Legal Research

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LEG 186T INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL RESEARCH

Autumn Semester 2005

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PREREQUISITE: Enrollment in program or consent of program administrator

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to legal research techniques and citation with an application of legal research to writing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the role of the paralegal in Legal Research and Writing.
2. Use a variety of authority to understand and support a particular legal theory.
3. Develop analytical skills to access hard copy digests and on-line resources to research case law.
4. Analyze and synthesize cases, constitutional, and statutory research on a particular topic.
5. Shepardize cases for validation and research.
6. Utilize secondary authority to understand, analyze, and tie together primary authority and to find additional primary authority to support a legal issue.
7. Create legal memoranda according to IRAC or other appropriate formats.

GRADING AND POLICIES:

Grading Scale:  A - 93-100%
                B - 87-92%
                C - 80-86%
                D - 75-79%
                F - Below 75%

Weight of grading:  Homework assignments 15%
                    Midterm Exam - 25%
                    Case Brief - 25%
                    Final Exam - 35%
Attendance Policy: Attendance is not mandatory but will influence grading when the numerical average is on the borderline between grades.

Make-up Tests Make up tests will be allowed if I have been notified prior to the test that you are unable to take the test due to illness or emergency. Notification may be by email, in person or phone message. Make-ups will be completed by the end of the week in which the test was scheduled.

Due Dates: Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date and must be typed. A late assignment will have 7 points deducted from the score. Rough drafts are due to be turned in on the date indicated.

Disabilities: If you need special assistance due to a disability contact me personally after class or by phone or email by the end of the 2nd week of class.

REQUIRED TEXT: The Legal Research and Writing Handbook by Andrea Yelin and Hope Viner Samborn ALWD Citation Manual by Darby Dickerson, Association of Legal Writing Directors

Plagiarism Warning

“Plagiarism is the representing of another’s work as one’s own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion.” The University of Montana, 1999-2000 Catalogue, Page i8. Also see Student Conduct Code.
You may work with other students on the library exercises and in researching the writing assignments. The actual writing on the written assignments must be your own. When working with other students, be sure to understand the resources and process used to get the answer.

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