

## **ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH**

Spring Semester- 2009

2 credits

Tuesday @ 4:00-5:20pm

Lewis Building Rm.513 (a)

Instructor: Prof. Allen R. Moye

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Phone: (312) 362-6893

E-mail: amoye@depaul.edu

Required Text: Kunz, Christina L., et.al, The Process of Legal Research, 7th ed. (Aspen Publishing, 2008).

Supplemental Text: Armstrong, J.D.S., and Knott, Christopher, Where the Law Is: An Introduction to Advanced Legal Research 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Thomson-West Publishing 2006).

Supplemental reading from other texts or articles may be suggested. Any additional readings will either be from material on reserve in the law library or posted to the course black board website.

NOTE: This syllabus is in draft form and may be revised. The dates for specific topics covered may be adjusted as needed however, no additional requirements or assignments will be added.

Description of Course: The purpose of this course is to strengthen student research and legal analysis skills. The course will build upon students' knowledge of source materials; introduce new sources and techniques of research; and how best to apply this knowledge to specific legal problems. Also, the cost effectiveness and relative advantages of manual versus electronic research will be explored. All students must have working Lexis and Westlaw passwords and active e-mail accounts.

Summary of Grading: Grading will be based upon the following;

- 1) Each student is to complete four research exercises to be distributed over the semester. The exercises will be based on specific research scenarios distributed during the first week of class. The questions will address individual topics covered up to that point in the course and will count for a total of 15 points each. Completed exercises are to be submitted no later than 48 hours before the next class meeting. Successful completion of all research exercises will account for 60% of the final grade.
- 2) Each student is to submit a research strategy guide of 15-20 pages devoted to a single legal topic, detailing and analyzing primary and secondary sources in print and electronic format used for researching that topic. Each topic will be chosen from specific research areas and must be approved by the instructor. In addition each student will be required to do an in class presentation explaining the development of their research strategy and the resulting guide. Successful completion of the research strategy guide and class presentation will account for the remaining 40 % of the final grade.

## CLASS DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Jan. 13, 2008

Week 1 /Reading: Kunz, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp.3-74)

Discussion: Introduction to the course and course requirements; legal authority and cognitive skills involved in research; description of research strategy guide and presentation. We will also take a quick diagnostic quiz to establish a baseline of the classes' basic research skills.

**NOTE: RESEARCH SCENARIOS DISTRIBUTED.**

Jan. 20, 2008

Week 2/ Reading: Kunz, Chapters 3 & 4 (pp.75-90) & Ch. 7 (pp. 124-139)

Discussion: Developing a research strategy; secondary sources (encyclopedias & treatises); research guide topics.

**NOTE: RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #1 DISTRIBUTED**

**DUE DATE: JAN. 25 @ 4pm**

Jan. 27, 2008

Week 3/ Reading: Kunz, Ch. 5, 6 & 8 (pp. 97-123, 140-145); Armstrong Ch. 4, 6 & 7 (pp.89-103, 137-147)

Discussion: Secondary Sources cont'd – Finding and using legal periodicals, American Law Reports, Commentary (Practice Materials, Jury Instructions and Forms)

**NOTE: RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #1 – Reviewed & Returned**

Feb. 3, 2008

Week 4/ Reading: Kunz, Ch. 9 & 10 (pp.148-217); Armstrong Ch. 5 (pp.104-136)

Discussion: Case Law Research- Reporters, Digests, Citators, Court websites, BLAWGS and commercial electronic databases.

**NOTE: RESEARCH GUIDE TOPICS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

**RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #2 DISTRIBUTED**

**DUE DATE: FEB. 8 @4pm**

Feb 10, 2008

Week 5/ Reading: Kunz, Ch. 11 & 12 (pp. 221-320); Armstrong, Ch. 2 & 3 (pp.13-88)

Discussion: Enacted Law- Codes, Statutes and Session Laws; legislative process and federal and state legislative history; using state and federal government websites and commercial electronic databases.

**NOTE: RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #2 Reviewed & Returned**

**NOTE: RESEARCH GUIDE TOPICS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE INSTRUCTOR BY THE END OF THIS CLASS SESSION.**

Feb. 17, 2008

Week 6/Reading: Kunz, Ch. 13 (pp. 321-347); Armstrong, Ch. 8 (pp.148-176)

Discussion: Administrative Materials-Federal and state regulations

**NOTE: RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #3 DISTRIBUTED**

**DUE DATE: FEB. 22 @4pm**

Feb. 24, 2008

Week 7/Reading: Kunz, Ch. 14 & 15 (pp.348-376)

Discussion: Administrative Materials- Agency decisions

**NOTE: RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #3 –Returned & Reviewed**

**OUTLINE DRAFT FOR RESEARCH GUIDE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

March 3, 2008

Reading: Kunz, Ch. 16 & 17 (pp. 379-421)

Discussion: Researching Rules of Procedure and Rules of Professional Responsibility.

**NOTE: RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #4- DISTRIBUTED**

**DUE DATE: March 8 @4pm**

March 10, 2008

Reading: TBA

Discussion: Specialized topical research -; inter-disciplinary research; evaluating web sites & BLAWGS

**NOTE: RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #4- Reviewed& Returned**

March 17, 2008: Readings: TBA

Discussions: Developing an effective legal research strategy.

**FIRST DRAFTS OF RESEARCH GUIDES ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

**MARCH 24, 2008: SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS**

March 31, 2008: Readings: TBA

Discussions: Cost effective research strategies

**NOTE: FIRST DRAFTS OF RESEARCH STRATEGY GUIDES ARE RETURNED AT  
END OF CLASS**

April 7, 2007: Student research guide presentations begin.

April 14 2008: Student research guide presentations (cont'd)

April 21, 2008: No class- Work on research guides

**RESEARCH STRATEGY GUIDES DUE April 26, 2008 @ 4:00pm**