

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

Weekday Program

Preliminary¹ Legal Research Syllabus, Fall 2009—All Weekday LRW Instructors

Introduction

The Legal Research and Writing (LRW) course in the Weekday program has two components: the full-year Writing Classes taught by the Legal Writing Department faculty, and the fall semester Research Classes taught by student teaching assistants (TAs) under the supervision of the department faculty and by law school research librarian guest lecturers. (The research class may be called "research lab" on the schedule information you received.) This syllabus addresses the basic requirements and the weekly sequence of classes, readings, and assignments for the Research Class component of the LRW course. All the students in the Weekday LRW course will be using this syllabus for their Research Class work. Writing Class syllabi will vary, however, according to the faculty member teaching the Writing Class. Please check the writing syllabus for your particular instructor for detailed information about your Writing Class.

**Note that your work in the Research Class, like your work in the Writing Class, is subject to the provisions of the Weekday Program Legal Research and Writing Student Manual, including the Code of Conduct in the manual's Appendix B.

In the Research Class component of the course, you will learn about many of the sources used in legal research, and you will do weekly assignments that require you to apply your knowledge. (You may be surprised by the number and variety of research sources and by the many different ways they are used and updated.) You will also learn proper citation for the sources you have found, and some of your weekly assignments will include citation work as well as research work. You will use and add to the research and citation skills you learn in Research Class when working on the Research Memorandum and Appellate Brief assignments for your Writing Class, when working on other class assignments and extracurricular activities you do over the course of law school, and when working on many matters over the course of your legal career.

During most Research Class meetings, your TA will introduce the week's research topic(s) and the corresponding assignment, and will answer questions and review earlier materials as needed. In some other meetings, library faculty (research librarians) will present

¹ July 15, 2009 note: Due to delayed availability of some materials or updates, some aspects of this syllabus will be updated by the time law school classes start in mid-August. Exercise information, in particular, will be more detailed. Most exercises will be from the CD-ROM that comes with the Kunz book or from the online site that is coordinated with the ICW text. Your Lexis password, distributed during Orientation, will enable you to access the ICW exercises.

guest lectures about over-arching research topics and answer questions. You will also attend some mandatory workshops for online research training. To be properly prepared for Research Class or the workshops in any given week, you should do the topic reading listed below *before* the meeting or workshop for which it is assigned. Note, also, that you may want to do the Research Class topic reading each week before your Monday Writing Class because legal research topics may be discussed in Writing Class as well.

First Research Class Meeting

Note that there is no Research Class meeting during the first week of law school classes. Your first Research Class will meet during the second week of classes. Please note several things you need to do before the first Research Class meeting: 1) Do the assigned topic reading for that class, which is listed below; 2) Use the Westlaw and Lexis materials you received during Orientation to register on the sites so that you can access any materials that your TA may wish to reference during the class; and 3) Use the CALI information that you will receive either during Orientation or your first Legal Writing class to access the CALI lesson in the assigned topic reading. Although you may see references to scoring in the CALI lesson, for the Research Class, you will do the lessons for information and not for scoring, and therefore you do not need to worry about doing the lesson so it can be scored. You will find it helpful, however, to try answering the questions in the lesson as you go along.

Textbooks and Websites

The required textbooks for the Research Class are:

Christina L. Kunz et al., The Process of Legal Research (7th ed. 2008) ("Kunz")

The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et al. eds., 18th ed. 2005) ("Bluebook")

Tracy McGaugh & Christine Hurt, Interactive Citation Workbook for the Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (2009 ed.) ("ICW"), which has a coordinated website for online exercise completion

You will also use the password-protected Westlaw (www.lawschool.westlaw.com), Lexis (www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool), and CALI (Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) (www.cali.org) websites for course readings and exercises. Please be aware that these online services are fee-based. While you are in law school, you will have unlimited access to them by virtue of your status as a law student. Once you graduate, however, you will need to pay for these services should you choose to use them. In the LRW course, you will also receive information about the ever-growing number of free online sites for research as well.

Class Assignments and Grading

You will note below that you will receive a weekly assignment, covering one or two research and/or citation topics, at the end of most Research Class meetings. Some assignments will be downloaded from a CD-ROM in the Kunz book and submitted to your TA electronically. Other assignments will be done online, on a website associated with the LCW text. You will earn a total of fourteen points toward your LRW semester point total if you properly complete all of the weekly assignments. There will also be a semester-end research exam to test your understanding and retention of research skills covered in the assignments; it will be worth twenty points.

Unless otherwise directed by your TA, in order to receive full point credit for most research assignments, you must complete the assignment to the "near perfection" standard. Under this standard, if your completed assignment contains some errors but does reflect satisfactory effort, your TA will give you one week to redo the assignment in question so as to meet the near perfection standard. If the first redo still contains errors but does reflect satisfactory effort, you will be required to do a second redo. Unless otherwise directed by your TA, each redo is due at the start of the Research Class following the Research Class in which the redo was assigned. If your initial submission of the assignment reflects satisfactory effort and is submitted on time, and if you redo the assignment satisfactorily and on time (either the first or second time), you will receive full credit for the assignment. If you have not satisfactorily completed the assignment after two redos, you will not receive point credit for that assignment but must still complete the exercise to the "near perfection" standard by the end of the semester to avoid receiving an Incomplete in the course. Therefore, if you find that you are having trouble with an assignment, you should ask your TA for help before you run out of redos.

The satisfactory completion standard for the citation exercises may differ from the standard for the research exercises, depending on how the materials are updated in the 2009 edition of the ICW. Your TA will explain the standard once you reach that point in the semester.

Be aware that the Research Class assignments can be more time-consuming than they look, especially when you first start learning about legal research and citation, so you should not leave them until the last minute. Both the research librarians and the LRW program TAs will be available in the library at posted hours to answer questions. Be sure to take advantage of their availability if you are having trouble with an assignment.

Note that you may not choose to skip an assignment, to submit an incomplete or unsatisfactory assignment, or to forego doing any required redo for an assignment, and simply not earn point credit for the assignment. While you will not, in fact, earn point credit for any assignment or redo that is not completed in satisfactory fashion and on time, you must have completed all the assignments and redos in satisfactory fashion by the end of the semester or you will receive an Incomplete in the course.

Collaboration

When you work on your Research Class assignments, we encourage you to collaborate with other students in interpreting the questions, tracking down the resources, discussing citation rules and their application, and discussing possible answers.² When it comes to typing up (or in) the answers, however, you must each formulate and submit your own answers independently. Please note also that students may not "divide and conquer" any assignment work, with a student independently researching or working on all or part of any assignment and then sharing results with others. Submitting another's work as your own is a Code of Conduct violation, even if the student who actually did the work shared willingly. Each student should be involved in every step of each assignment; in other words, each student should have first-hand knowledge of each step and be able to explain how the answer for each step of the assignment was reached. Please refer to the Weekday Program Legal Research and Writing Student Manual, including the Code of Conduct in Appendix B, for additional information regarding collaboration, unauthorized assistance, and plagiarism.

We hope you enjoy your year in the Legal Research and Writing course!

² Please note, however, that you may not collaborate when doing the research and citation work for the assignments in your Writing Class unless specifically directed otherwise by your Legal Writing Instructor. Part of your grade for the assignments in your Writing Class will be based on your ability to independently apply the research and citation skills you have learned in Research Class, and therefore research and citation work must generally be done on your own for the Writing Class. Check with your instructor if you are unsure about the collaboration rules for any assignment in your Writing Class.

Legal Research Class Semester Schedule

Semester Week	Calendar Week	Research Class topic(s)	Reading to be done before class	Assignment given in class	Assignment due by start time of class	Notes about Writing Class, law school events and calendar, and other info
1	Aug. 17	No class	None	None	None	♦Law school classes start 8/19; first Writing Class meets 8/19
2	Aug. 24	Introduction: ▪Research class & research sources ▪Library tour	▶ Kunz: Chap. 1 ▶ CALI: Legal Research 101: The Tools of the Trade	None	None	♦First Research Class meets (all Research Classes meet on Friday)
3	Aug. 31	Guest librarian: ▪Secondary source research overview	▶ Kunz: Chap. 2 ▶ CALI: Introduction to Secondary Sources	Legal research steps exercise	None	♦Labs that meet at the same time as each other will be grouped this week; your TA will tell you what classroom to go to for Research Class this week
4	Sept. 7	Secondary sources (Commentary): ▪Encyclopedias ▪Treatises	▶ Kunz: Review pp. 21-25 (for Tuesday trainings about fee-based online services) ▶ Kunz: Chaps. 3 & 4 (for research class)	Encyclopedias & Treatises exercises	Legal research steps exercise	♦Monday, Sept. 7 is Labor Day; no writing classes ♦Lexis and Westlaw secondary source research training in addition to regular Research Class: Tuesday, September 8, 11:00-1:00; Rooms TBA
5	Sept. 14	Secondary sources (Commentary): ▪A.L.R. Annotations Intro to Citation: ▪Placement and principles ▪Full and short cites	▶ Kunz: Chap. 6 ▶ Bluebook: Skim Introduction, Rules B1-2, B5, B13, R6 ▶ Recommended: Skim your Writing Class text section that covers Bluebook citation	A.L.R. Annotations exercise *Closed Memo citation form and placement guide distributed	Encyclopedias & Treatises exercises	

Semester Week	Calendar Week	Research class topic(s)	Reading to be done before class	Exercise(s) assigned in class	Exercise(s) due by start time of class	Notes about writing class, law school events and calendar, and other info
6	Sept. 21	Secondary sources (Commentary): ▪Periodicals ▪Restatements	► Kunz: Chaps. 5 & 7	Periodicals & Restatements exercises (due in 2 weeks)	A.L.R. Annotations exercise	◆Closed Memo for Writing Class due next week ◆Legal authority citations provided in class this week for you to place properly into Closed Memo
7	Sept. 28	Guest librarian: ▪Primary source research overview ▪Developing an integrated research strategy	► Kunz: Review Chap.2 ► Kunz: Chap. 18	None	None	◆Closed Memo due at Registrar's Office by 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29 ◆Research Memo assignment distributed in Writing Class on Wednesday, Sept. 30 ◆Research classes that meet at the same time as each other will be grouped this week; your TA will tell you what room to go to
8	Oct. 5	Primary sources: ▪Reporters and Digests ▪Case citation	► Kunz: Chap. 9 & Interlude 3 ► ICW: Chaps. 1-3, 5	Reporters & Digests exercise; Case citation exercise (due in two weeks)	Periodicals & Restatements exercises	◆Lexis and Westlaw primary source research training: during regular Writing Class hours on Monday, Oct. 5 and Wednesday, Oct. 7 in addition to regular research class
9	Oct. 12	▪ No Research Class	None	None	None	◆Fall Break: Thursday, October 15 & Friday, October 16. Enjoy!
10	Oct. 19	Primary sources: ▪State and Federal Statutes ▪Statutory citation	► Kunz: Chap. 11 & Interlude 4 ► ICW: Chaps. 6-8	Statutes exercise; Statute citation exercise	Reporters & Digests exercise; Case citation exercise	
11	Oct. 26	Citators Secondary authority citation	► Kunz: Chap. 10 & Interlude 3 ► ICW: Chap. 12	Citators exercise; Secondary authority citation exercise	Statutes exercise; Statute citation exercise	

Semester Week	Calendar Week	Research class topic(s)	Reading to be done before class	Exercise(s) assigned in class	Exercise(s) due by start time of class	Notes about writing class, law school events and calendar, and other info
12	Nov. 2	Primary & Secondary source wrap-up: ▪Rules ▪Other secondary sources Rule citation	► Kunz: Chaps. 8, 16 & 17	Rules exercise; Rule citation exercise	Citators exercise; Secondary authority citation exercise	◆ Required Career Services presentation in one of Writing Class hours; your instructor will tell you which hour
13	Nov. 9	Guest librarian: ▪Cost-effective research techniques ▪Appropriate use of online search engines	► TBA ► Kunz: Interlude 1	None; review for research exam	Rules exercise; Rule citation exercise	◆Research Memo for Writing Class due next week ◆Labs that meet at the same time as each other will be grouped this week; your TA will tell you what room to go to
14	Nov. 16	Review session	► Review notes & Kunz materials	None	None	◆Research Memo due at Registrar's Office by 11 a.m. on Monday, November 16
15	Nov. 23	Multiple choice research exam: ▪Administered during Monday Writing Class hour. ▪No Research Class	None	None	None	◆Thanksgiving break Wednesday, November 25-Friday, November 27. Enjoy!
16	Nov. 30	▪No Research Class	None	None	None	◆Wed. December 2 is last day of classes ◆Law school follows Mon., Thurs., Fri. class schedule this week ◆Good luck with exams!