

**NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW**

**LEGAL REASONING & ANALYSIS SYLLABUS – SECTION 103
Fall 2010**

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the requirements for Legal Reasoning & Analysis, the student will:

- be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the main sources and types of law
- be able to locate statutory law in a variety of mediums and formats
- be able to locate case law in a variety of mediums and formats
- be able to conduct basic electronic legal research using fee based or free/low cost databases
- be able to identify and formulate issues
- be able to analogize, distinguish and synthesize cases
- be familiar with canons of construction and legislative history
- be able to apply case and statutory law in an analytical framework utilizing the principles of analogies, distinctions, canons of construction and legislative history to write an objective legal memorandum
- have acquired legal writing skills
- have experienced improvement in basic writing skills, including grammar, tone, style, usage and attribution

Student Support Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities (physical, psychological, learning disability, etc.) who would like to request accommodations need to register with the Office of Student Support Services in Suite G20 in the Student Services Building or by contacting Kesha Lee, Director at (919)530-6325 or klee@nccu.edu. If you are already registered in the office, you will need to return to the office **each semester** to review your information and receive updated accommodations.

Research Professor: Nichelle Perry

Room 232 (first floor of library)

Office Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Other hours by appointment

Writing Professors:

Brenda D. Gibson

Room 308 (second floor of library)

Office Hours

Monday: 12:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Other hours by appointment

Sega Howell

John Kasprzak

Room 10 (in basement)

Office hours by appointment

Assignments & Grades:

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Library Research Exercises	10%
Legal Writing Assignments	50%
Memorandum	40%

Grades for Legal Reasoning & Analysis are based upon five written assignments worth 10% each for a total of 50%, two out of class library research exercises worth 5% each for a total of 10%, and one memorandum of law worth 40%. **Any writing assignment (other than the memorandum) on which the student receives a grade of less than a C (C- through F) must be rewritten.** Students who receive a grade of C or better on writing assignments other than the memorandum have the option of rewriting the assignment. All students who are required to rewrite or who exercise the option to rewrite will receive an average of the initial grade and the grade on the rewrite (e.g., if a student makes a “D” on Assignment 1 and a “B” on the rewrite, the student’s grade for Assignment 1 is a “C.”) If a student with a C- /below does not do the rewrite, the second grade of “F” is averaged with the first grade. **NOTE THAT ALL RE-WRITES WILL BE ADMINISTERED IN COMBINED SECTIONS ON FRIDAYS FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF A GRADED ASSIGNMENT IN ROOMS 100 AND 102 AS INDICATED ON THE SYLLABUS.** There is no re-write requirement for graded research assignments.

Unless otherwise indicated, ungraded assignments, completed outside of class should not exceed two pages. We prefer that ALL ungraded assignments completed outside of class be typed. In any case, all assignments must be legible. You should keep copies of all your submissions, **GRADED AND UNGRADED ASSIGNMENTS. WRITE THE LAST 5 DIGITS OF YOUR STUDENT ID NUMBER ON ALL ASSIGNMENTS.**

ALL assignments, except in-class assignments, are due **at the beginning** of the scheduled class.

1. Late submissions will result in the following grade reductions: A graded assignment turned in up to ten minutes late will receive a 1/3 letter grade reduction (e.g., an “A” becomes an “A-“). After the first ten minutes, the assignment will receive an additional letter grade reduction for each 24-hour period that it is late (e.g., an “A-“becomes a “B-“). Any assignment submitted to someone other than the student’s professor must be initialed by a secretary or a professor and must certify the time & date of submission. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in no credit being awarded for the assignment.

2. **NO UNGRADED ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED LATE.** Students are required to bring **2 copies** of the ungraded assignments to class and submit one copy to the instructor at the beginning of class. Late submissions will be treated as if they were not submitted. Failure to submit an ungraded assignment will result in a 1/3 letter grade reduction of your **final** grade for the course.

Instructors may waive penalties for exigent circumstances that were beyond the student’s control. We strongly recommend that you produce your work on word processing systems with save capabilities and backup files.

3. Library tours scheduled for the first week of classes, Research labs, Lexis and Westlaw trainings, diagnostics given during orientation and thereafter, and follow-up interventions ARE MANDATORY. Failure to take a part in and/or complete these activities will result in a 1/3 letter grade reduction of your **final** grade for the course (as noted in section 2 for failure to submit ungraded assignments).

Instructions for signing up for a Library Tour:

- 1) Go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/>
- 2) You do NOT have to create a Sign Up Genius account in order to sign up for a tour. Please call the reference desk at 919.530.6715 if you need assistance.
- 3) Click on the tab “Find A Signup”
- 4) Enter the email address mcosby@ncu.edu and click “Search”
- 5) Click on “NCCU Law Library Tours for First-Year Law Students”
- 6) Enter the case-sensitive password: EagleOrientation and click “Submit”
- 7) Click “Sign-Up” for the tour that fits with your schedule

Research Labs

Research Lab assignments and times will be posted to the LRA Webcourse as designated by your Research Professor. Please adhere to your assigned group and time slot.

Reading Assignments:

Reading Assignments from the below-listed required texts are set out in the syllabus. These readings are assigned to complement the lectures and assist in completing the graded and ungraded exercises. It is expected that reading assignments be completed prior to the corresponding lecture. The below-listed Recommended Resources, while not necessary, may be helpful in understanding and completing assignments in this course. These Recommended Resources are not required.

Required Texts:

Legal Writing, Richard K. Neumann, Jr. & Sheila Simon (ISBN 9780735564244)
Basic Legal Research: Tools and Strategies, Amy Sloan (4th ed.) (ISBN 978-0-7355-7672-8)

Recommended Resources:

Plain English for Lawyers, Richard Wydick (5th ed. 1994) (ISBN 0890892563)
Elements of Style, William Strunk, Jr., & E.G. White A(3rd ed. 1979) (ISBN 205191584)
The Legal Writing Handbook, Laurel Currie Oates & Anne Enquist (3rd ed. 2002)
The Journey to Excellence in Legal Writing, Pamela Newell & Timothy Peterkin (2010) (ISBN 9781609279677)

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING YOUR SECTION’S LRA WEBCOURSE (ON LEXISNEXIS) ON A REGULAR BASIS FOR OFFICIAL & UNOFFICIAL NOTICES REGARDING THE COURSE, INCLUDING READING ASSIGNMENTS, LAB ASSIGNMENTS, GRADED & UNGRADED ASSIGNMENTS, AND SCHEDULE & CLASS CHANGES.

Orientation

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

8/17 – 8/20

LIBRARY TOURS (DAY)

See instructions above for preregistering for a tour

8/17 Tuesday

LECTURE: INTRODUCTION TO LRA/RESEARCH

Reading Assignment: Neumann, Chapters 1-3

Assign Grammar Diagnostic (Part II)

8/18	Wednesday	LECTURE: ISSUE IDENTIFICATION Reading Assignment: Neumann, Chapter 4, 5 and pp. 31-33 in Chapter 6 Assignment A given	GIBSON
8/20	Friday	LAB: ISSUE IDENTIFICATION Assignment A due & discussed in lab Grammar Diagnostic (Part II) due in lab	
8/24	Tuesday	ASSIGNMENT 1 given during class & due at end of class	
8/25	Wednesday	LAB: ISSUE IDENTIFICATION Assignment 1 returned and discussed in lab	
8/27	Friday	LECTURE: ISSUE IDENTIFICATION/FORMULATION Reading Assignment: Neumann, Chapter 6 Assignment B given	HOWELL
		ASSIGNMENT 1 REWRITE (1:00 p.m./Rms. 100 and 102)	
8/31	Tuesday	RESEARCH LECTURE-Intro to Legal Research Reading Assignment: Sloan, Chapter 1 (excluding section D) (pgs 15- top of 22) & Chapter 2	
9/1	Wednesday	LAB: ISSUE IDENTIFICATION/FORMULATION Assignment B due and discussed in lab	
9/3	Friday	ASSIGNMENT 2 given during class & due at end of class	
9/7	Tuesday	RESEARCH LECTURE: STATUTORY LAW Reading Assignment: Sloan, Chapter 6	
9/8	Wednesday	LAB: ISSUE IDENTIFICATION/FORMULATION Assignment 2 returned & discussed in lab Assignment 1 rewrite returned	
9/9	Thursday	Westlaw Training Sessions 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30 Preregistration required at lawschool.westlaw.com Room: TBA	
9/10	Friday	LECTURE: ANALYSIS (STATUTORY LAW) Reading Assignment: Neumann, Chapters 4, 8 and 10 Assignment C given	GIBSON
		ASSIGNMENT 2 REWRITE (1:00 p.m./Rms. 100 & 102)	
9/13	Monday	LexisNexis Training 10:00, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00 Preregistration required at lexisnexis.com/lawschool Room: TBA	

- 9/14 Tuesday **RESEARCH LABS: STATUTORY LAW (10, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4)**
Labs will meet in the Library
 Research Assignment A completed during class
Research Assignment 1 given and due on 9/21
- 9/15 Wednesday LAB: ANALYSIS (STATUTORY LAW)
 Assignment C due and discussed in lab
- 9/17 Friday **ASSIGNMENT 3 given during class & due at end of class**
- 9/20 Monday LexisNexis Training 10:00, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00**
Preregistration required at lexisnexis.com/lawschool
Room: TBA
- 9/21 Tuesday **RESEARCH LECTURE: CASE LAW**
Reading Assignment: Sloan, Chapter 4
Research Assignment 1 due
- 9/22 Wednesday LAB: ANALYSIS (STATUTORY LAW)
 Assignment 3 returned and discussed
 Assignment 2 Rewrite returned
- 9/24 Friday LECTURE: ANALYSIS (CASE LAW) **KASPRZAK**
Reading Assignment: Neumann, Chapters 7 and 9
 Assignment D given

ASSIGNMENT 3 REWRITE (1:00 p.m./Rms. 100 & 102)
- 9/27 Monday Westlaw Training Sessions 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30**
Preregistration required at lawschool.westlaw.com
Room: TBA
- 9/28 Tuesday **RESEARCH LABS: CASE LAW (10,12, 1, 2, 3, 4)**
Labs will meet in the Library
 Research Assignment B completed during class
Research Assignment 2 given during class and due on 10/5
- 9/29 Wednesday LAB: ANALYSIS (CASE LAW)
 Assignment D due and discussed in lab
- 10/1 Friday **ASSIGNMENT 4 given during class & due at end of class**
- 10/5 Tuesday LAB: ANALYSIS (CASE LAW)
 Assignment 4 returned & discussed in lab
 Assignment 3 rewrite returned
Research Assignment 2 due

10/6	Wednesday	LECTURE: SYNTHESIS Reading Assignment: Neumann, Chapters 13 (and re-read Chapters 6, 16 and 17) Assignment E given	HOWELL
10/8	Friday	LAB: SYNTHESIS Assignment E due and discussed in lab	
		ASSIGNMENT 4 REWRITE (1:00 p.m./Rms. 100 & 102)	
10/11– 10/15		NO CLASS: (Mid-term exams)	
10/19	Tuesday	LAB: SYNTHESIS Assignment F given during lab and due at the end of lab	
10/20	Wednesday	LAB: SYNTHESIS Assignment F returned and discussed in lab	
10/22	Friday	ASSIGNMENT 5 given during class & due at end of class	
10/26	Tuesday	LAB: SYNTHESIS Assignment 5 returned & discussed in lab Assignment 4 rewrite returned	
10/27	Wednesday	FLEX DAY	
10/29	Friday	LECTURE: MEMORANDUM OF LAW Reading Assignment: Neumann, Chapters 14 and 15 Assignment G given MEMORANDUM ASSIGNMENT GIVEN	KASPRZAK
		ASSIGNMENT 5 REWRITE (1:00 p.m./Rms. 100 & 102)	
11/2 -11/3		NO CLASS: Memo Preparation	
11/5	Friday	LAB: ORGANIZING A MEMO ANALYSIS Reading Assignment: Neumann, Chapters 16 - 19 Outside Reading: Neumann, Chapters 20, 21 and 22 Assignment G due and discussed in lab.	
11/2 -11/3, 11/8-11/19		NO CLASS: Memo discussed in individual conferences Assignment 5 rewrite returned during individual conferences by designated instructors.	
11/12	Friday	INITIAL DRAFT OF MEMORANDUM DUE at 9:00 a.m.	
11/23	Tuesday	MEMORANDUM DUE AT 1:00 p.m.	