

**NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
SPRING 2011 LEGAL RESEARCH AND PERSUASION SYLLABUS
DAY PROGRAM SYLLABUS**

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Basic Legal Research: Tools & Strategies, Fourth Edition, Amy Sloan
Writing a Legal Memo, John Bronsteen
The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 19th Ed.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Understanding and Mastering the Bluebook: A Guide for Students and Practitioners, Linda J. Barris
The Journey to Excellence in Legal Writing, Pamela Newell & Timothy Peterkin (2010) (ISBN 9781609279677)

The purpose of this course is to introduce first year students to print and computer-based primary and secondary legal authority needed to prepare a research pathfinder and an open-research persuasive memorandum of law. The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the legal resources and research methodologies, along with the Bluebook system of citation, essential for preparing legal documents.

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the requirements for Legal Research & Persuasion, the student will:

- Understand the need for proper attribution/citation in legal research and writing
- Be able to properly reference primary and secondary legal authority in a persuasive memorandum of law using the Bluebook system of citation
- Be able to access and update State and Federal primary sources.
- Be able to access and update secondary sources in all formats.
- Compare print and electronic formats to determine the most efficient methods for accessing and updating legal information.

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@ncsu.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: Patricia Dickerson

Room 222 (first floor of library)

Office Hours

Mondays: 8am to 10am

Tuesdays: 9.30am to 11.30am

Wednesdays: 1 to 3pm

Thursdays: 2 to 4pm

Other times by appointment

Writing Professors:

Brenda D. Gibson

Room 308 (second floor of library)

Office Hours

Monday: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other hours by appointment

Natasha Nazareth-Phelps

Room 10 (in basement)

Office hours by appointment

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Blue Book Citation Quizzes	20%
Research Plan	20%
Legal Research Exam	20%
Memorandum	40%

Citation Quizzes

You will have two citation quizzes which will test your knowledge of the Bluebook. **Any student receiving a grade of less than a C (C- through F) on a citation quiz must take the re-write of that quiz.** Students who receive a grade of C or better on a citation quiz 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.**

Research Labs

Students must attend the research labs as designated on the syllabus. During the research labs, professors will provide students with the opportunity to utilize the resources they are studying.

Research Lab times will be posted to the LRP TWEN page. Please adhere to your assigned group and time slot.

Research Plan

Your research plan will outline/document the research strategies you employ while researching and describe which sources you consult and in what order. The point of this research plan is to describe the research process and evaluate the relevant resources. Your research plan will focus on your memorandum topic. Research plan structure and organization issues will be discussed in separate documents which will be posted on TWEN. Examples of research plans will also be posted on TWEN.

Legal Research Exam

There will be one Legal Research exam which will consist of 50 multiple choice and short answer questions. Sample questions will be posted on TWEN.

Memorandum

Students will utilize pathfinders, the Bluebook, and writing skills to write a persuasive memorandum of law. Examples of memorandum will be posted on TWEN, and formatting issues

will be discussed in a separate document which also will be posted on TWEN.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

You are expected to turn in each assignment **at the beginning** of class on the day it is due.

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. **FOR THE WRITING PORTION OF THE COURSE: 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. Research labs, Grammar Diagnostics 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).

The information contained in this **SYLLABUS** is subject to change. Notification of changes pertaining to this course will be communicated via TWEN. It is important that you check TWEN daily for course information and changes. E-mail notices will be sent through TWEN only. When registering for your *Westlaw* account, it is important that you record an accurate e-mail address in order that you receive class notifications in a timely manner.

JANUARY

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| 1/11 | Tuesday | LECTURE: Review of Syllabus, Jeopardy Review of Cases & Statutes
Sloan- Chapters 4 and 6 |
| 1/13 | Thursday | LECTURE: Research with Citators
Sloan-Chapter 5: Research with Citators |
| 1/14 | Friday | Research in the Library
Statutory Law, Caselaw and Citators |
| 1/18 | Tuesday | LECTURE: Secondary Sources Part I
Sloan- Chapter 3, Secondary Source Research
DUE: Shepard’s/Keycite exercise |
| 1/20 | Thursday | LECTURE: Secondary Sources Part II |

Sloan- Chapter 3: Secondary Source Research

1/21	Friday	Research in the Library Secondary Sources
1/25	Tuesday	LECTURE: Federal Legislative History Research Sloan- Chapter 7: Federal Legislative History Research
1/27	Thursday	LECTURE: Administrative Law Research Sloan- Chapter 8: Federal Administrative Law Research
1/28	Friday	Research in the Library Administrative and Legislative Research
FEBRUARY		
2/1	Tuesday	LECTURE: Free & Low Cost Resources Sloan-Chapter 10: Electronic Legal Research
2/3	Thursday	LECTURE: Research Plans Sloan-Chapter 11: Developing a Research Plan
2/4	Friday	Legal Research Review Day/Research Plan workday
2/8	Tuesday	LECTURE: <i>LexisNexis</i>
2/10	Thursday	LECTURE: <i>Westlaw</i>
2/11	Friday	Legal Research Exam
2/15	Tuesday	LECTURE: BLUEBOOK CITATIONS I (Primary Sources) Bring Bluebooks to Lecture Assignment A given
2/17	Thursday	LAB: Bluebook citations Assignment A due and discussed in lab. Assignment B given
2/18	Friday	Assignment B due and discussed in lab
2/22	Tuesday	Quiz 1
2/24	Thursday	Quiz 1 returned and discussed in lab.
2/25	Friday	LECTURE: BLUEBOOK CITATIONS II (Secondary Sources) Bring Bluebooks to Lecture Assignment C given LAB: Bluebook citations RESEARCH PLAN DUE

MARCH

- 3/1-3/4 **No class (Mid-term Exams)**
- 3/8 -3/12 **SPRING BREAK**
- 3/15 Tuesday Assignment C due and discussed in lab
Assignment D given
- 3/17 Thursday **Assignment D due and discussed in lab**
- 3/18 Friday Quiz 2: Bluebook citations
Quiz 1 Re-write (12:00 p.m.)
- 3/22 Tuesday Quiz 2 returned and discussed in lab.
- 3/24 Thursday MEMORANDUM LECTURE I
MEMORANDUM ASSIGNMENT GIVEN
Assignment E given
Research Plans returned
- 3/25-4/21** **NO CLASS: Memo discussed in individual conferences**
MANDATORY CONFERENCES 3/24-4/7
OPTIONAL CONFERENCES 4/11-4/20
- 3/25 Friday Quiz 2 Re-write (12:00 p.m.)
- 3/29 Tuesday Memo Analysis Lab I
Assignment E due and discussed
Assignment E due and discussed
****Note: If you turn in a sufficient, good faith effort for Assignment E, you will not need to attend class on 4/1. You will be notified by 3/31.**
- 4/1 Friday Memo Analysis Lab II
Assignment E Rewrite Lab
****Required for insufficient Assignment Es, optional for other students.**
- 4/8 Friday **Mandatory Drafts of Memorandum** due on line by 8:00 a.m. (Sections 102 and 103) and 11:00 a.m. (Section 101)
- 4/21 Thursday **Memorandum Due** on line by 8:00 a.m. (Sections 102 and 103) and 11:00 a.m. (Section 101)