

**The University of Arizona Rogers College of Law**  
**Advanced Legal Research—Online**  
**Course Syllabus – Spring 2018**

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**Class Sessions:**

This online class will be completed in the seven weeks between March 12 and April 27, 2018, with your final project due by the last day of exams, Friday, May 11, 2018. This means that all the material from the fourteen week semester long class will be covered in half the time. This course will be very time intensive. It is important that each week's assignments be completed on time so that you will benefit from my feedback and you will stay on track for completion of the course in the time allotted.

**Office Hours:**

As a general rule, I will be available in my office between 10 AM and 4 PM weekdays. However, I am also available via email. I check my inbox often and can get back to you in a short amount of time to answer your questions. When you have any questions about the class, be sure to ask me.

**Course Overview:**

Advanced Legal Research is designed to build on the knowledge and skills students have gained in previous coursework and through working in the legal field. Basic research methods will be reviewed in the first part of the course. We will then examine more advanced topics such as administrative law research, advanced statutory research, legislative history, international and foreign law research, and practice materials.

This course is designed to assist students in making the transition from researching in an academic setting to researching in a practice environment. Accordingly, this will include many open-ended problems. You should be class prepared to handle projects that simulate assignments you might receive in a work setting.

By the end of this course you should be able to

- Recognize the organization of legal information in various formats
- Explain the finding aids used to access legal information
- Create effective keyword searches for online database
- Identify sources of legislative history information
- Select and apply appropriate sources of administrative law

- Differentiate among legal information sources and select those most relevant to a specific research problem
- Assess the value of online legal research platforms and extrapolate from past experience how to use unfamiliar online legal information sources
- Develop a plan for researching any given legal issue
- Analyze primary and secondary legal research sources and apply information obtained to solve a given legal issue
- Demonstrate the ability find the law applicable to a given set of facts
- Summarize rules of law found from research and apply them to a given set of facts
- Produce a lawyerly summary of relevant legal information, explain how it was found, and apply this information to a specific set of facts

### **Textbooks**

There is no required textbook.

### **Assignments and Grading Criteria:**

*Late projects will be penalized 10% per day.*

- Project 1: Updating Memo Project - 15% (assigned Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, **due Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, before 11:59 p.m.**)
- Project 2: State Research Project - 25% (assigned Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, **due Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, before 11:59 p.m.**)
- Project 3: Federal Research Project - 40% (assigned Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, **due Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, before 11:59 p.m.**)

**In order to assess your abilities on the projects, please work independently.** Please remember: law students are required to comply with the Honor Code of the College of Law and the University's Code of Conduct.

*Late exercises will be penalized 5% per day.*

Weekly exercises - 20% (exercises are due on the day listed on the D2L drop box by 11:59 pm).

### **ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let the Dean of Students at the College of Law (Dr. Willie Jordan-Curtis) know immediately so that you can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact [Disability Resources](#) (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations.

Students who have temporary disabilities, illnesses, or other emergencies that require some accommodation in order to meet class requirements should consult with the Dean of Students at the College of Law, who will determine what, if any, accommodation is necessary. The Dean of Students will make the necessary arrangements with all affected faculty.

Name: Dr. Willie Jordan-Curtis  
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 Phone: (520) 621-8602  
 Office: LAW 150C

See separate calendar for specific topics to be covered.

# March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Class Starts Week 1	13 Introduction Self Assessment Research Methodology	14 Organization of Information	15 Keyword Searching Pt. 1	16	17
18	19 Week 2	20 Statutes	21 Case Law	22 Keyword Searching Pt. 2	23	24
25	26 Week 3	27 Updating	28 Legislative History	29	30 Updating project assigned	31

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>Week 4</b>	3 <b>Administrative Law</b>	4 <b>Secondary Sources</b>	5	6	7
8 <b>Updating project due by</b>	9 <b>Week 5 State Project</b>	10 <b>Online tutorials, training for</b>	11	12	13	14
15	16 <b>Week 6</b>	17 <b>Practice Materials and Forms</b>	18 <b>Foreign and International Law</b>	19	20	21
22 <b>State Project Due by</b>	23 <b>Fed Project Assigned</b>	24 <b>Cost effective research</b>	25 <b>Internet Research</b>	26 <b>Dockets</b>	27 <b>Class Ends</b>	28
29	30					
					<b>Federal Project due by</b>	