

**CLASS NUMBER AND NAME:** PLN240B LEGAL RESEARCH II

**TOTAL CLOCK HOURS/UNITS:** 24 hours/2 Units

**PREREQUISITES:** Completion of PLN240A & L-Legal Research I and Legal Research I Lab.

**TEXT AND MATERIALS:** *Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2004) Joanne Banker Hames, Yvonne Ekern (ISBN 9780135109441); *California Style Manual* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2000). Edward W. Jessen. West Group Publishers, Inc. (ISBN 314233709); *Black's Law Dictionary* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2011) Brian A. Garner. Thompson West Publishing Company. (ISBN 9780314275448)

Recommended: Laptop purchased from the Bookstore or student's own laptop computer (Please see your instructor if you are interested and qualify through financial aid for the laptops available from the Empire Bookstore)

**CLASS DESCRIPTION:** In this course the student will continue to work on researching, citing, and Shepardizing cases and codes using Computer Assisted Legal Research (CALR) including LEXIS and the Internet as resources. The student will learn how to use these research sources to find cases, codes, and secondary materials which they learned to locate in a law library. The student will learn how to formulate appropriate searches and will continue practicing proper citation formats. The student will learn to when and how to use the Internet, including social media, as resources for legal research.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:** To give students the opportunity to research a variety of legal questions and issues and to properly cite their responses. To encourage students to use critical thinking in locating and citing correct research materials.

**REQUIREMENTS:** This is an approximate schedule and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. The student is responsible for any missed information and handouts due to absences. Homework includes familiarizing yourself to the Calendar and Syllabus, textbook reading assignments, and study guide homework plus diagrams, flashcards, and practice tests all when appropriate to augment learning. The time spent in preparation for or reflection on course lecture will approximate two hours outside of class for each lecture credit hour utilized by the instructor in delivery of the materials and ¼ hour outside of class for each hour of structured lab time..

**CLASS FORMAT OVERVIEW:** Time in the classroom will be spent on lecture and discussion. Time will also be spent on computers learning Lexis and Internet legal services to review and practice Shepardizing case law. Students will also learn to locate primary and secondary legal materials on Lexis and on the Internet using reliable resources. Students will also learn how to distinguish between simple Internet searches and how to use the Internet and social media as resources for legal research. After engaging in class discussion or

listening to the class lecture for part of the class period, the students will work on their assignments for the remainder of the class time.

**CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE:** It is critical to the student's success to attend class every day. The student's presence for the entire class is an important demonstration of the concept of professional demeanor and shows respect for the class. Therefore, students will only be marked present when they arrive on time and remain for the entire class session. A student must be present for 80 percent of the class, or she/he will be asked to leave the class and will receive a failing grade in the class.

**Legal Research is an intensive class requiring attendance and continual participation. Courtesy and a professional attitude are mandatory in the law library as well as the classroom.**

**GRADING POLICIES:** The work submitted to the instructor will be evaluated according to the specified requirements of the assigned work and its accuracy. No late work will be accepted. Students must complete all assignments in order to pass. Students must work individually and must turn in their own work.

Each assignment is graded based on a percentage. One point will be deducted for each individual error on an assignment. The grading scale is based on the following percentages:

90 – 100	=	A
80 – 89	=	B
70 – 79	=	C
60 – 65	=	D
64 and Below	=	F

**FINAL GRADE:** The final grade is a letter grade based upon completing the assignments, total points on assignments, quizzes, and attendance. In order to obtain an A in this class, the student must complete all assignments, have no more than one absence, and receive an average of at least 90 percent on all assignments.

**ANTICIPATED LEARNING  
OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Research cases utilizing all source tools.
2. Research codes utilizing all source tools.
3. Review and continue practicing Shepardizing on Lexis.
4. Review and continue practicing proper citation methods using the *California Style Manual*.
4. Have a basic understanding of Computer Assisted Legal Research including LEXIS and Internet Legal Research on the freely accessible Internet.
5. Formulate appropriate searches on LEXIS and on Internet legal sites to locate cases, codes, legislative information, and relevant legal information for research purposes.
6. Verify the reliability of a web page to ensure that it can be used as a resource.

7. Understand the appropriate use of social media and the Internet in the practice of law as a legal resource.

*The instructor reserves the right to reconfigure the above with prior notice to the class.*

**PLN240B LEGAL RESEARCH II OUTLINE**

Week		ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK
<b>One</b>	<b>Introduction to Computer Assisted Legal Research, Class Discussion</b>	<b><u>HW: Reading: Handout</u></b> <b>HW: Homework Assignment I</b>  <b><u>Assignments (Handouts):</u></b> Assignment No. 1: Introduction to Online Research
<b>Two</b>	<b>Lexis Introduction, Review Shepardizing on Lexis, Lecture, and Discussion on locating primary sources</b>	<b><u>HW: Reading: Handout</u></b> <b>HW: Homework Assignment II</b>  <b><u>Assignment (Handouts):</u></b> Assignment No. 2: Lexis Assignment
<b>Three</b>	<b>Lecture and Discussion on locating secondary sources</b>	<b><u>HW: Reading: Handout</u></b> <b>HW: Homework Assignment III</b>  <b><u>Assignment:</u></b> Assignment No. 3: Lexis Assignment
<b>Four</b>	<b>Lecture and Discussion on Internet Sources</b>	<b><u>HW: Reading: Handout</u></b> <b>HW: Homework Assignment IV</b>  <b><u>Assignment (Handout):</u></b> Assignment No. 4: Internet Research Assignment
<b>Five</b>	<b>Lecture and Discussion on Social Media</b>	<b><u>HW: Reading: Handout</u></b> <b>HW: Homework Assignment IV</b>  <b><u>Assignment (Handout):</u></b> Assignment No. 5: Social Media Research Assignment
<b>SIX</b>	<b>Discussion of topics covered, practical aspects</b>	<b><u>HW: Reading: Handout</u></b>  <b><u>Assignment (Handout):</u></b> FINAL ASSIGNMENT: Final Project

*The instructor reserves the right to reconfigure the above with prior notice to the class. The class objectives will be met regardless of deviation from this outline.*

*This is an approximate schedule and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. The student is responsible for any missed information and handouts due to absences. Homework includes familiarizing yourself to the Calendar and Syllabus, textbook reading assignments, and study guide homework plus diagrams, flashcards, and practice tests all when appropriate to augment learning. The time spent in preparation for or reflection on course lecture will approximate two hours outside of class for each lecture credit hour utilized by the instructor in delivery of the materials and ¼ hour outside of class for each hour of structured lab time.*