



CLASS NUMBER AND NAME: PLN240L LEGAL RESEARCH I LAB

TOTAL CLOCK HOURS/UNITS: PLN240L - 24 hours/1 Unit

PREREQUISITES: Completion of LG231F – Estate Planning and Probate

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

CLASS DESCRIPTION: This course is an hour of lab time provided to give students the time to locate and prepare legal research assignments given in PLN240A, including the opportunity to use the law library and take advantage of on-line resources. The instructor will be present to provide students with assistance and to provide additional explanations as needed.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: To give students the hands-on opportunity to research a variety of legal questions and issues and to properly cite their responses. To encourage students to use critical thinking locating 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: An hour of lab time will be provided to allow students the necessary time in which to utilize the law library and on-line legal research programs for the assigned research projects in PLN240A. The instructor will be present to answer questions, assist with problems and provide explanations as needed.

CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE- It is critical to the student's success to attend class every day. The student's presence for the entire hour 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 or 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 accuracy of the assignment. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Students must complete all assignments in order to pass. **Students must work independently and must turn in their own work.** The final letter grade will be based on the following percentages:

100 - 90 %	A
89 - 80 %	B
79 - 70 %	C
69 - 65 %	D
Below 65 %	F

FINAL GRADE:

The final grade is a letter grade based upon completing the assignments, your total points, quizzes, and attendance. In order to obtain an A in this class, you must complete all assignments, have no more than 1 absence and receive an average of 90 percent on all assignments.

ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

1. Cite California and Federal Cases.
2. Cite California and Federal Codes.
3. Research cases utilizing all source tools.
4. Research codes utilizing all source tools.
5. Shepardize cases to see if they are still current law and to find other cases on the same subject for further research utilizing all source tools.
6. Find cases and codes which pertain to subject matters using second legal resources such as *Witkin-Summary of California Law*, *California Jurisprudence III*, and *California Forms of Pleading and Practice*.
7. Have a basic understanding of Computer Assisted Legal Research including LEXIS and Internet Legal Research on the freely accessible Internet.

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