LEGAL RESEARCH
LAW 1060

Class Hours: 3.0  Credit Hours: 3.0
Laboratory Hours: 0.0  Revised: Fall 2012

NOTE: This course is not designed for transfer credit.

Catalog Course Description:
A study of necessary materials for legal research, codes, reporter systems, digests, practice manuals and Westlaw. Methods of legal citation are studied.

Entry Level Standards:
College-level competencies in logic, reading, and English are required.

Prerequisites:
LAW 1000 and ENGL 1010

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:


I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Research (.5 hours); overview of textbooks (.5 hours) Categories of research materials: primary authority, secondary sources, finding tools (1 hour); factors to consider in choosing among sources (.5 hour) Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis (.5 hour)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Research terms: formulating research issues for research situation (1 hour); linking factual concepts with legal concepts (1.5 hours); dictionaries (.5 hour)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Primary Authority: Constitutions, Statutes, Administrative Law, and Court Rules (1.0 hours); Research of Federal statutes (2.0 hours)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Research of State statutes (2 hours); Research of federal and state administrative regulations (1.0 hour)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Primary Authority: Case law in federal courts (1.5 hours); Case law in state courts (1.5 hours)</td>
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II. Course Goals*:

The course will:

A. Guide students to develop an awareness of the ethics used in performing legal research and communicating those research findings (I).

B. Reinforce the practice elements of the work ethic such as professionalism, preparedness, punctuality, honesty, cooperation, dependability, contribution, effectiveness, and good manners. (I, II, IV)

C. Enhance the student knowledge of what constitutes primary and secondary authority in legal research and their respective applications in legal analysis (II, II, IV)

D. Expand student understanding of tools and resources used in the legal research process. (II, III, IV)

E. Expand the student’s ability to utilize on-line research tools such as Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. (II, V)

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Paralegal Studies program.

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a complete and thorough understanding of legal ethics. (B)

2. Recognize what constitutes primary authority in legal research. (C,D)

3. Recognize what constitutes secondary authority in legal research. (C,D,E)
4. Identify how to find and use research tools, such as digests and citators. (B,C,D,E)
5. Identify and follow accepted rules of law library etiquette. (A,B)
6. Describe the role of legislative materials within the context of the civil law system. (C,D)
7. Distinguish between state and federal law, criminal and civil law, and substantive and procedural law. (B,C,D)
8. Identify and demonstrate working familiarity with standard legal publications. (B,C,D,E)
9. Read, interpret, and use uniformly accepted legal abbreviations and citations. (B,C,D,E)
10. Narrow the research focus by identifying and defining legal issues (A,B,C,D,E)
11. Formulate a query for computerized legal research. (B,C,D,E)
12. Shepardize cases on Lexis-Nexis and Keycite cases on Westlaw. (B,C,D,E)
13. Perform a research task utilizing Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. (B,C,D,E)

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 10% of grade
   Students shall have weekly tests over the research materials and methods studied.
B. Laboratory Expectations:
   N/A
C. Field Work:
   N/A
D. Other Evaluation Methods:
   Weekly Research assignments: 70% of grade
   Students shall be assigned weekly research assignments beginning with the exploration of information resources available and progressing to complex research topic assignments.
   Students shall prepare a research resources notebook. 20% of grade

E. Grading Scale:
   A  93-100
   B+  88- 92
   B   83- 87
   C+  78- 82
   C   73- 77
   D   65- 72
   F   64 and below

V. Policies:
A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:
• Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
• Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
• Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one’s own work.
• Taking an exam for another student.
• Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
• Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

Please see the Pellissippi State Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 04:02:00 Academic/Classroom Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for the complete policy.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/.

D. Other Policies:

Computer Usage Guidelines:
College-owned or -operated computing resources are provided for use by students of Pellissippi State. All students are responsible for the usage of Pellissippi State's computing resources in an effective, efficient, ethical and lawful manner.