Courses Offered Fall 2014

LAWS79701 Advanced Legal Research (Fall 2014: 3 credits)
Instructor: Susan Vaughn and Sherry Xin Chen  Mon., Wed. 1:30-2:50

LAWS79702 Advanced Legal Research (Fall 2013: 3 credits)
Instructor: Laurel Davis and Mary Ann Neary  Tues., Thurs. 8:30-9:50

Prerequisites: None
This course is designed as an in-depth look at the process of legal research. Students are exposed to a wide range of legal materials and practical techniques and strategies for using these materials competently and effectively in the research process. The goal of the course is to create self-sufficient legal researchers, capable of analyzing a legal problem, and formulating and executing the appropriate and most effective research methodology. Particular attention is paid to types of legal sources and research not covered in the first year of law school (e.g. administrative law, legislative histories and legal practice materials). Both print and electronic sources are explored and critiqued. The course covers Westlaw, LexisNexis, BloombergLaw and other electronic sources. The grade is based upon several course assignments and a final exam. Enrollment is limited to 20 students.

LAWS447801 Environmental Legal Research (Fall 2014: 2 credits) Wednesday, Thursday 10:30-11:50
Instructor: Joan Shear

Prerequisites: None
This course is designed as an in-depth look at the legal research materials and techniques used in the practice of environmental law. Strong emphasis on administrative law and the rulemaking process, legislative history, and government documents. Course will also review basic case law and statutory research. Print and electronic sources are compared and contrasted to help students learn economical and efficient research skills necessary to be a successful environmental lawyer. Ungraded weekly exercises help students to track their progress in learning the materials. Grade will be based on class participation and two graded exercises. The class will meet three hours per week for the first two thirds of the semester.

LAWS337401 Insurance and Civil Litigation Law Research (Fall 2014: 2 credits) Thurs. 3:00-4:50
Instructor: Karen Breda

Prerequisites: None
This course is designed as an in-depth look at legal research techniques and resources used by lawyers in the insurance field and by civil litigation attorneys. Course will cover sources of insurance law and insurance obligations, including contracts, common law doctrines, statutes and regulations. Course will teach techniques used in researching contract interpretation, tort law, government regulations, court rules; conflict of laws, case evaluation and ethical dilemmas. Course will also cover secondary sources, research tools and organizations for both insurance specialists and trial attorneys. Both print and electronic sources will be explored and utilized. Weekly ungraded exercises allow students to track their progress in learning the material. Grade will be based on two graded assignments and a final examination.
Courses Offered Spring 2015

LAWS79701 Advanced Legal Research  (Spring 2015: 3 credits)
Instructor: Karen Breda and Sherry Xin Chen

LAWS79702 Advanced Legal Research  (Spring 2015: 3 credits)
Instructor: Joan Shear and Susan Vaughn

Prerequisites: None
This course is designed as an in-depth look at the process of legal research. Students are exposed to a wide range of legal materials and practical techniques and strategies for using these materials competently and effectively in the research process. The goal of the course is to create self-sufficient legal researchers, capable of analyzing a legal problem, and formulating and executing the appropriate and most effective research methodology. Particular attention is paid to types of legal sources and research not covered in the first year of law school (e.g. administrative law, legislative histories and legal practice materials). Both print and electronic sources are explored and critiqued. The course covers Westlaw, LexisNexis, BloombergLaw and other electronic sources. The grade is based upon several course assignments and a final exam. Enrollment is limited to 20 students.

LAWS445701 Research for Criminal Law Practice  (Spring 2015: 2 credits)
Instructor: Laurel Davis
Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to provide an in-depth examination of legal research materials and techniques that will be useful for students who are interested in becoming prosecutors or criminal defense attorneys. Course will cover basic primary sources of criminal law such as the U.S. Constitution and state constitutions, as well as federal and state statutes, cases, and administrative law. Course will cover important secondary sources in the criminal law field; legislative history research skills; how to find and use jury instructions, sentencing guidelines, docket, and practice materials such as formbooks. Students will also learn how to find and work with criminal court rules. Both print and electronic sources are explored and critiqued. The course covers Westlaw, LexisNexis, Bloomberg Law and other electronic sources. Ungraded exercises allow students to track their progress in learning the materials. Grade will be based on one graded assignment and a take-home final exam.

LAWS996001 Tax Law Research  (Spring 2015: 2 credits)
Instructor: Mary Ann Neary
Prerequisites: None

Students will master research sources and methods in the area of federal tax, including federal statutory and legislative history research, regulatory process and regulatory publications. Students will master techniques of state-level tax research, including state statutory and regulatory resources. Students will be introduced to international and foreign law tax research sources. Emphasis is placed on the technology and tools used by practitioners, including BloombergLaw, CCH Intelliconnect, IBFD, RIA Checkpoint, BNA Tax Portfolios, LexisNexis, Tax Analysts and Westlaw. Course grade will be based on several graded assignments.