



- CLASS NUMBER AND NAME:** PL240L LEGAL RESEARCH I LAB
- TOTAL CLOCK HOURS/UNITS:** PL240L - 25 hours/1 Unit
- PREREQUISITES:** Completion of LG231F – Estate Planning and Probate
- TEXT AND MATERIALS:** Legal Research, Analysis , and Writing, Joanne Banker Hames and Yvonne Ekern, (4th ed. 2012);
California Style Manual, Edward W. Jessen, (4th ed. 2000)
or The Bluebook, a Uniform System of Citation, by Harvard Law Review (18th ed., 2005 – 20th ed. 2010);
Black’s Law Dictionary, (3rd ed. 2006 – 9th ed. 2011);
Recommended: Netbook or student’s own laptop computer
(Please see your instructor if you are interested and qualify through financial aid for the Netbooks available from the Bookstore)
- 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 correct research materials.
- 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. The instructor will be present to answer questions, assist with problems and provide explanations as needed.
- CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE-** Students must maintain 90 percent attendance in the class. If a student falls below this attendance requirement, the student shall promptly meet with the instructor to determine if the student qualifies for make-up work in lieu of receiving an absence and being dropped from the class with an F. Make-up work for absences must be accomplished within a reasonable period of time after the absence, as arranged with the instructor. Regardless of whether make-up work is completed, no student who is absent more than 4 times in this class shall pass this class.
- It is expected that each student will be present at the beginning of the class period. Should the student arrive more than five minutes late, it will be up to the instructor to decide if the student has arrived in time to be counted as present. The instructor's decision is final.

Legal Research requires using cooperative research skills among the students. Discussion in class regarding the legal research tools is encouraged. However, each student is responsible for their own research and assignments. If a student is caught cheating the assignment will be taken away and the student will receive a zero and meet with the Legal Department Head for further discussion. Courtesy and cooperation are encouraged and a professional attitude in the classroom and law library is mandatory.

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 - 60 %	D
Below 60 %	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.
8. Formulate appropriate searches on LEXIS and on Internet legal sites to locate cases and codes.