



Law 34

Legal Research

Section #10143

Fall 2019

SYLLABUS

Course Description

Study of legal research including key search terms, precedents, citation format, finding cases, constitutions, statutes, regulations, ordinances, conducting, expanding and updating both federal and California legal research and reporting research

Textbook

The textbook for this class is an interactive website. Here are author's words -

"Welcome to TeachingLaw.com, a set of interactive, online textbooks used in law schools across the country. These textbooks provide interactive, legal content, such as annotated samples, helpful links, and videos, as well as tools, such as quizzes, practice tests, and self-

assessments to engage law students in and out of the classroom. TeachingLaw.com was created by Diana R. Donahoe, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, and is published through the Georgetown University Law Library."

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/library>

More on the textbook:

TeachingLaw.com: Legal Research & Writing
Professor Diana R. Donahoe

"This three-part textbook is used nationally by legal research and writing professors, law librarians, and others to teach first-year LRW courses, upper class research classes, advanced writing courses, and LLM courses. It is divided into three sections—Legal Research, Legal Writing, and Grammar & Citation—and contains study aid material, quizzes, self-

TEXTBOOK

assessments, annotated samples, video testimonials, and other interactive material to teach students legal research strategies and writing techniques. It is updated twice a year to address upgrades on the three major legal research platforms (Westlaw, LexisAdvance, & Bloomberg Law) and advances in the legal profession."

Your Textbook



Register for access to textbook website

Student Registration: You have been assigned this textbook for our class. The textbook is an interactive website. To purchase access, add it to your cart and register. Cost is \$35.00.

License Duration: 3 years

URL to register for textbook:

<https://teachinglaw.com/front>



[Go Dodgers!](#)
[About ProfJ](#)

David Jordan, Esq (**ProfJ**) practiced law for 20 years, was the Director of the Paralegal Program for 20 years, and retired in June 2017, and is now Emeritus Law faculty and continues to teach in the Paralegal Program Study at Mission.



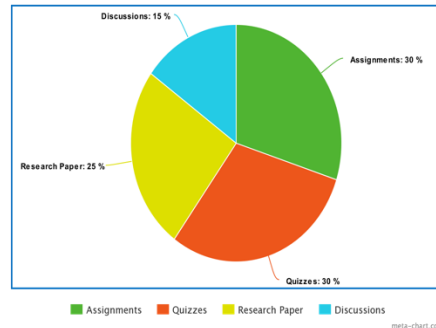
Welcome to Class video from Prof J

Office Hours: by appointment – Mon – Fri. 9-5 pm (cell 818-15-2015) or by

Online office hours - zoom video

<https://uso4.web.zoom.us/j/784174015>

Grades



Assignments 30%

Quizzes 30%

Weekly Discussion 15%

Final Research Paper 25%

Total 100%

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Find and analyze cases, statutes, constitutions, and ordinances both federal and California, and brief them.
2. Critically analyze and argue case citation, search terms, methods of legal research, formats for reporting legal research and updating primary and secondary sources of the law.
3. Prepare a final legal writing and research paper.

Assessment

Learning Outcomes in this class will be assessed through finding of law cases, case briefs, and a final research paper.

Case assessments

Students will find cases based upon a

given set of facts, and then provide a short case brief of each case using the following format:

- a. FACTS - include all relevant facts
- b. ISSUE - identify correct legal issue (dispute)
- c. RULE - state the relevant rule of law
- d. CONCLUSION - summation complete with correct restatement of the issue and rule

Final Legal Research Paper

Students will complete a final research paper applying the principles of legal research they learned in the class.

The format of the paper will be as follows:

1. Title of Paper
2. Thesis Statement
3. Scope of the Paper
4. Body of the Paper
6. Conclusion
7. End notes - includes 5 cases and codes and refers to the numbers in the body of paper giving or citing the authority.

Rubric for Assessment and Evaluation of the final legal research and writing paper

Will include criteria for organization, content, argumentation, supporting case authority, legal reasoning and analysis and grammar/spelling.

Rating scale by which the assessment will be evaluated

- 75% of the students will achieve an acceptable score of 3 on a scale of 1 to 5
- [Grading Rubric for Final Research Papers](#)
- [Sample Student Papers](#)

Modules

Each week you will find your work under "modules" in your online course. Each week you will have an assignment, a

quiz, and a weekly discussion. Work is due each week on or before 11:59 pm on Sunday. All work is to be submitted under Canvas.

A **calendar** of assignments is also located at lamission.org

Posting of Grades: Your grades will be posted under "gradebook." Only you can see your grades. It is your responsibility to insure you have received the proper grades for your assignments, quizzes and tests.

Please bring any discrepancies to my attention ASAP so they can be addressed and corrected before the end of the course.

Course ground rules:

- Participation is required (3-4 times minimum per week)
- Learn how to navigate in your Course Management System
- Keep abreast of course announcements
- Address technical problems immediately

This online class uses the **Canvas Course Management System**.

If you are new to Canvas, [watch these videos](#)

Canvas Student Resources

[Login to Canvas @](#)

<http://ilearn.laccd.edu>



How to Succeed in this class

- **Motivation and Self Discipline** - To succeed in this class you must do all the assignments on time! You will need to make sure you are

staying current with all reading, assignments, and activities

- **Take an Active Role-** My role as your instructor in this class will be to provide you with resources and opportunities to explore and use them. I am here to guide you through as you learn. Therefore you will need to take active role in the learning. This is a co-equal partnership.
- **Time Requirements** - This is a regular 3 unit class. You will need to spend at least the same amount of time you would working on traditional on campus classes – approximately 6 hours per week

My Teaching Philosophy



I measure student learning, and what I enjoy most about teaching, is when I see our students :

1. Develop good habits of discipline and critical thinking by examining life through authentic thinking and engagement in genuine learning experiences
2. Actively build complex ideas and not just passively acquire simple ideas
3. Create opportunities for self-direction and self actualization
4. Acquire rigorous and systematic reasoning and wisdom rather than mere facts
5. Organize knowledge into both useful and valuable experience constructing new ideas based on current and past knowledge
7. Share the journey of discovery in understanding principles and applying those principles to resolve real life issues and problems.

8. Develop purpose and meaning and cultivate skills for engaging constructively with others.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means using another person's work, writing, words, ideas, research, graphics, programs, music, pictures, data, and/or other creative expression without giving the other person full credit. You must enclose another person's words in quotation marks and cite your source(s), and you must give citations when using the ideas of another person, *even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words*. Using words, ideas, computer code, or any work by someone else without giving proper credit is plagiarism. Any time you use information from a source, you must cite it.

If you are found guilty of plagiarizing, you are subject to disciplinary actions, so please study and do your best.

First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Withdrawals and Exclusions:

If you fail to log into the class during the first two weeks you may be excluded from the class. You need to log into the class several times a week. If you stop working on the assignments (or wish to drop a class), you must drop the class yourself – officially. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F" in the class. A new state policy limits students to three attempts per course. Receiving a grade or a "W" for a course counts as an attempt, regardless of when the course was taken.

Student Conduct

Students are expected to adhere to all school policies and to abide by the standards of student conduct as described in the LAMC College Catalog.

Instructor and Student Contact Expectations:

This is an online course and all of our interactions will occur in Canvas.

Please expect frequent communication and feedback from me via private message, announcements, assignment feedback, and discussion

forums. I typically return grades within 7 days of assessment completion, in the form of qualitative and quantitative feedback.

I usually reply to messages the same day they are received, but please give me up to 48 hours to respond.

Ultimately, we will regularly and substantively interact with each other

many times each week, throughout the term.

Your role will be to check your grades, messages, announcements, and interact with me and your peers in the discussions.

Important Dates:

*Last day to ADD or Drop	September 8, 2019
Last day to drop with a "W"	November 17, 2019

***PLEASE NOTE:** A "W" will appear on your transcript record after this date.

REMINDER: Course repetition is regulated by state guidelines, limiting students to a maximum of three (3) enrollments in a course, to include both substandard grades and withdrawals, unless otherwise specified in the course description.

Accommodations for DSPS students:

LAMC students with verified disabilities who are requesting academic accommodations should use the following procedure:

Step 1: Obtain documentation of your disability from a licensed professional. You may contact DSPS to request a Disability Verification Form.

Step 2: Make an appointment to meet with a DSPS Specialist to review your documentation and discuss reasonable accommodations. To schedule a meeting, please call DSPS at (818)364-7732.

Step 3: Bring your disability documentation to your DSPS appointment. The DSPS office is located in room 1018 of the Instructional Building.

Step 4: Each semester, reach written accommodation agreement with the DSPS Specialist and your instructor. To be most effective, students should complete this process by the end of the 3rd week of the semester. Tests with required accommodations must be taken at the DSPS office.



Student Resources

Management of Stress and Mental Health: If you, or someone you know is in distress due the pressure of succeeding in school and contending with work, financial issues, relationships, managing time effectively, getting enough sleep, etc., please visit the Student Health Center (SHC), which offers a broad range of confidential student services including counseling and mental health services. The SHC is located in the Bungalow just west of the Collaborative Studies Building. The SHC webpage is www.lamission.edu/healthcenter and the phone number is 818-362-6182. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number is 800-273-8255.

Bookstore: For hours of operation, book availability, buybacks, and other information call (818) 364-7798 or 364-7768 or visit <http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/>

Counseling Department: For appointments and information call (818) 364-7655 or visit <https://www.lamission.edu/counseling/>

Disabled Students Programs and Services: For appointments and information call (818) 364-7732 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/dsps/>

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services: For appointments and information call (818) 364-7645 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/eops/>

Financial Aid: For information and applications call (818) 364-7648 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/financialaid/>

Library: For information on library hours, resources, workshops, and other services contact (818) 364-7105 or 364-7106 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/library/>

Tutoring Services in Learning Center: Laboratories for Learning & Writing. Walk-in and appointment services offered. Call (818) 364-7754 or visit <http://www.lamission.edu/learningcenter/>