



## Approved Innovative Course

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- Innovative courses may meet state elective credit only
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- Course requirements must be met without modification

*Course: Legal Research and Writing*

*PEIMS Code: N13003014*

*Abbreviation: LEGRW*

*Grade Level(s): 10-12*

*Number of Credits: 1.0*

### *Course description:*

Legal Research and Writing provides an introduction into the study and practice of legal writing and research. This course is designed to introduce students to the methods and tools used to conduct legal research, develop and frame legal arguments, produce legal writings such as briefs, memorandums, and other legal documents, study U.S. Constitutional law, and prepare for appellate argument(s).

### *Essential knowledge and skills:*

- (a) **General Requirements.** This course is recommended for students in Grades 10-12. Recommended prerequisite: Court Systems and Practices.
- (b) **Introduction:**
  - (1) Career and technical education instruction provides content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills for students to further their education and succeed in current or emerging professions.
  - (2) The Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Career Cluster focuses on planning, managing, and providing legal services, public safety, protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services.
  - (3) Legal Research and Writing provides an introduction to the study and practice of legal writing and research. This course is designed to introduce students to the methods and tools used to conduct legal research, develop and frame legal arguments, produce legal writings such as briefs, memorandums, and other legal documents, study U.S. Constitutional law, and prepare for appellate argument(s).



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- (4) Students are encouraged to participate in extended learning experiences such as career and technical student organizations and other leadership or extracurricular organizations.
- (5) Statements that contain the word "including" reference content that must be mastered, while those containing the phrase "such as" are intended as possible illustrative examples.
- (c) Knowledge and Skills.
- (1) The student demonstrates professional standards/employability skills as required by business and industry. The student is expected to achieve business and industry employability skills standards such as attendance, on-time arrival, meeting deadlines, working toward personal/team goals every day, and ethical use of technology.
- (2) The student conducts legal research. The student is expected to:
- (A) plan a legal research strategy;
  - (B) access print and online research materials to find and analyze case law;
  - (C) research mandatory and persuasive case history using online databases such as Lexis-Nexis;
  - (D) critique other's legal writing(s) to determine whether cited case law and other legal sources were correctly referenced and relied upon for precedential holdings;
  - (E) evaluate and apply concepts found in Bluebook citation rules to one's writing.
- (3) The student prepares legal arguments. The student is expected to:
- (A) read and analyze case law;
  - (B) read and analyze case history;
  - (C) apply legal precedent to current legal issues; and
  - (D) develop arguments supported by case law research.
- (4) The student prepares legal documents. The student is expected to:
- (A) interpret the Bluebook requirements for legal writing;
  - (B) prepare legal briefs;
  - (C) prepare memorandums; and



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- (D) prepare other legal documents such as demand letters and pleadings.
- (5) The student studies and analyzes U.S. Constitutional law. The student is expected to:
- (A) analyze the relationship between the U.S. Constitution, Common Law, state and local law(s);
  - (B) analyze the legal, social, and historical implications of court decisions affecting the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution;
  - (C) predict possible outcomes of future cases and frame arguments in ways that are likely to garner the support of the judiciary; and
  - (D) critique cases related to U.S. Constitutional law and other current legal issues such free exercise clause, establishment clause, due process, and equal protection; and
  - (E) critique cases related to current legal issues.
- (6) The student participates in a class moot court simulation. The student is expected to:
- (A) research case law on an assigned current legal issue;
  - (B) read appellant, respondent, and amici briefs associated with the chosen case;
  - (C) write an appellate brief; and
  - (D) prepare an oral argument and respond to questions during the presentation of the argument.

### *Description of specific student needs this course is designed to meet:*

Legal Research and Writing will meet the needs of students by helping to prepare them for careers in the law and judiciary within the Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security (LPSCS) Career Cluster®.

### *Major resources and materials:*

#### Suggested Text:

Oates, Laurel Currie and Anne Enquist. (2014). *The Legal Writing Handbook: Analysis, Research & Writing* (6th ed). New York: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business.



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Harvard Law Review. (2015). *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (20<sup>th</sup> ed). Boston: Author.

Access to online databases such as Lexis-Nexis

Computer access

### Recommended course activities:

A variety of teaching methods can be used in *Legal Research and Writing* such as individualized study, cooperative learning, guest speakers, panel discussions, field trips, visual/audio presentations/media, computer software programs and internet research. A heavy emphasis will be placed on legal research and writing to include understanding citation methods and requirements, the importance and differences between persuasive and mandatory authority, construction of legal documents to include memos and briefs, researching case history to determine the state of law in a particular area, and correctly constructing legal writings. Required activities will include participation in a class moot court competition which will require the writing of an appellate brief and the delivery of an oral argument. Optional activities might include an interactive notebook and supplemental reading assignments.

### Suggested methods for evaluating student outcomes:

Methodology for student evaluations will include written/oral assignments, exams, quizzes, and evaluation of course-related projects.

### Teacher qualifications:

- Trade and Industrial Education: Grades 6-12. This assignment requires appropriate work approval.
- Trade and Industrial Education: Grades 8-12. This assignment requires appropriate work approval.
- Vocational Trades and Industry. This assignment requires appropriate work approval.

### Additional information:



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