Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: LSC 553 or nine credits of graduate credit in law.

Days and hours of class meetings: Mondays 6:50 PM - 9:20 PM

Instructor contact information:
Lynda Abramovitz
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  Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description An introduction to bibliographic organization of legal literature and techniques of legal research; use of primary and secondary sources and finding tools. (from Cardinal Station http://cardinalstation.cua.edu).

Instructional Methods: Lecture; class discussion; guest speakers.

Required Text: none

Reading materials will be available online or will be provided by instructor.

Course Goals
The purpose of this course is to (1) introduce the student to legal resources including primary sources, secondary sources and indexes, searching or finding tools; and (2) introduce the student to basic legal research methods.

Goals for Student Learning
At the conclusion of the course, the student will be familiar with the fundamental legal resources and finding tools and will be able to conduct basic legal research.

Course Requirements
Assignments/Projects
Examinations
Expectations and policies

Academic honesty: Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication. The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty (from http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm): “The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student’s past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. In the context of graduate studies, the expectations for academic honesty are greater, and therefore the presumed sanction for dishonesty is likely to be more severe, e.g., expulsion. ...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction.” Please review the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, at http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm.

Other Policies or Expectations. Regular class attendance is required. All assignments must be timely submitted. Assignments are to be submitted in hard copy format unless instructor notifies otherwise. There are no make-up examinations unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. The Syllabus or class schedule may be amended by the instructor if necessary. Each student is required to provide the instructor with email and telephone contact information so that the student can be contacted in the event that there is a change in the schedule that cannot be announced in class.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu.

Assessment

Grades will be based on the following:
1. 40%: Completion of the research assignments.
2. 20%: Midterm Examination.
3. 30%: Final Examination.
4. 10%: Attendance and participation.

University grades:
The University grading system is available at http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad//gradesfull.cfm#iii for graduate students. Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on http://cardinalstation.cua.edu.
Course Schedule


September 8 and 15, 2008: Cases, Case Finders and Shepards.


October 6, 2008: Constitutions; Court Rules and Annotations.

October 14, 2008: Midterm Examination. Due to the Columbus Day holiday, the school is closed on Monday, October 13, 2008. Monday classes are to be held on Tuesday that week.

October 20 and 27, 2008: Administrative Law and other Government Documents.


November 10 and 17, 2008: Secondary Authority.

November 24, 2008: Legal Research Strategies.

December 1, 2008: Summary and Review.

December 12, 2008, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm: Final Examination.

“The final exam must be given on the day and time assigned by the Registrar. Final examinations, if required, must be administered in the final examination period. Please plan accordingly for travel, work or appointments.”