Welcome to the Legal Research Workshop! Strong legal research skills are highly valued by legal employers, and research can take up to 40% of a new lawyer’s time. Yet there is so much information crammed into the first year of law school that research skills almost always get the short shrift. This course is designed to fill that gap and teach you essential and practical skills that will benefit you in your academic career and beyond.

**Class Times and Attendance**
This class meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 p.m. to 7:35 p.m. in AL912, the library classroom across from the computer labs on the 9th floor. There are 14 units, and each session is a combination of presentation and in-class exercises. Legal research is a very practical, hand-on skill that cannot be mastered by readings and lectures alone. Class attendance and participation are therefore essential to successful completion of the course. If you absolutely cannot make a class, be sure to contact me in advance so we can make arrangements for you to do the exercises independently.

You may not miss more than 2 classes – regardless of the reason. If you miss more than 2 you will be given an FA (Failure due to excessive absences).

Class participation is assumed. Failure to participate may reduce your grade by 5-10%.

**Class Preparation**
There is no assigned textbook for this class. Instead, you will be expected to read short articles that will be posted on the course page. You will also be assigned follow-up exercises to be completed prior to the next class.

The class involves searching on WestlawNext, Lexis Advance, Bloomberg Law, and other specialty databases. IF YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A BLOOMBERG PASSWORD, please register by going onto [http://www.bloomberglaw.com/activate](http://www.bloomberglaw.com/activate). You should be able to register simply by using your ubalt email address. If you cannot, or if you prefer to use a different email address, please contact me and I will send you an activation code.

**Assignments and Grading**
This class is worth 2 credits and may satisfy an upper-level writing requirement. Your grade will be determined as follows:

- Completion of all exercises: 15%
- Administrative agency presentation (group presentation of 10-15 minutes, outlining the documents and research resources for specific federal administrative agency); during class on March 30 and April 6: 10%
- Research journal documenting research process for final legal memo. Draft is 15% of your grade. Final journal is 10%. (Yes, the draft is worth more than the final.)
- Research memo of between 12 and 15 pages concerning an issue of federal legislation or administrative law. Draft is 15% of your grade. Final memo is 35%.
January 13
Legal Research Theory and Process, Sources of Law, and Research Plan


January 20
Caselaw
Advanced Search techniques
Writing Tips

January 27
Caselaw, continued
Advanced Search techniques
Writing Tips

*Citators: The Power Tools of Legal Research*

February 4
Secondary Sources
Advanced Search techniques
Writing Tips

Nevers, *Smart Researchers Use Legal Treatises*

February 10
Secondary sources, continued
Advanced Search techniques
Writing Tips

February 17
Statutes
Advanced Search techniques
Writing Tips

Congressional Research Service, *Legislative History Research Guide*

February 24
Statutes, continued
Catherine McGuire, Maryland State Law Library
Advanced Search techniques
Writing Tips

March 2
Administrative Law
Advanced Search techniques
Writing Tips

March 9
Administrative law, continued
Advanced Search techniques
Writing Tips

March 16
No class – spring break

March 23
International and Foreign Law
Harvey Morrell
Hoffman & Rumsey – Getting Started (pp. 1-15)

March 30
Court Rules & Ethics Opinion
Administrative Agency Presentations
Draft Research Journal due

April 6
Local Laws
Administrative Agency Presentations

April 13
Specialty Research
Draft memo due

April 20
Catch-Up/Conference week

April 27:
Draft memo due

May 12:
Final Research Journal and Memo due