NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary, please establish an accommodation plan with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on the MU homepage.

Advanced Legal Research (Law 5320)
Fall 2020, 2 Credits
Professor Randy Diamond, diamondrj@missouri.edu, Room 121A Law Library

Modality: Asynchronous (Mostly) and a Few Synchronous Zoom Meetings

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- develop proficiency in identifying and finding legal authorities in litigation and transactional matters routinely assigned to newer attorneys;
- become familiar with conducting factual, investigative, and other non-legal research in litigation and transactional matters routinely assigned to newer attorneys;
- conduct increasingly complex legal, factual, and investigative research in a specialized practice area or on a substantial legal issue;
- develop knowledge as legal research consumers in choosing among various research products for different research needs;
- improve their ability to compile, analyze, synthesize, and report research at a competency level hiring attorneys expect from newer attorneys and judges expect from judicial clerks

Assessment: formative and summative
Standard 303 compliant (simulation/law clinic/field placement)? No

Assignments and Grading:
Individualized Research Assignments: 60%
Research Module Assignments: 20%
Research Presentation: 15%
Participation and Professionalism: 5%

Course Materials
Canvas course page contains course info and materials.
Attendance

Mandatory Zoom synchronous sessions:
- Course introduction **August 27 at 7:30 pm**
- Virtual office meeting with your professor (September 23 – Oct 2) research for your major course project will be assigned at this meeting
- Virtual research project presentations (to be scheduled before Thanksgiving break)

You are required to log on to the weekly asynchronous modules and complete the work in the module by the assigned due date. Attendance will be taken based on your submitting assignments (discussion postings, written work, etc.) when due. If you fail to submit an assignment when due, you will be marked absent for the week.

A student marked absent for more than two weeks will have his or her final grade reduced.

If a health or other compelling reason prevents you from meeting a module deadline, contact me to request an extension.

Participation and Professionalism

Consistent and thoughtful course participation is expected. Successful participation encompasses participating in discussions, asking questions and being an active listener (reader of class posts/presentations). Quality, not quantity, of comments and questions count most, as will contributions to a positive, attentive, and engaged learning environment, including respect for others and opposing points of view.

The criteria I use to evaluate your work emphasizes attributes legal employers seek and value in new lawyers. Key attributes for this course in addition to quality of research and written analysis include: timeliness, diligence, initiative, clarity of thought, pride and ownership of work product, interest, curiosity, sound judgment, creativity, responsiveness, and other similar qualities. No single attribute defines success. In combination and to varying degrees the qualities referenced demonstrate course engagement, effort, growing competencies, and professionalism.

Weekly Modules - Content

One or more topics will be assigned in a week through a variety of instructional methods including recorded lectures, links to web sites, exercises, memos, discussion posts, etc.

Research modules will include several of the following:
- Advanced Bloomberg, Lexis Advance, and Westlaw features
- Terms & Connectors Search Strategies
- Google for Lawyers
- Missouri Legislative Research
- Medical Research for Lawyers
- Expert Witness Research
- Transactional and Business Research
- Regulatory and Standards Research
- AI Legal Research Systems and Related Technologies
August 24-29 – Module 1
• Introductory synchronous Zoom meeting August 27 at 7:30 pm
  o Course Introduction, Objectives, and Assignments
• See Course Bulletin Board a for pre-Zoom class assignment due August 26 by 11pm
• Review Canvas course site

August 30 – Sept 5 – Module 2
Modules will be published to Canvas by the evening before the start date, sometimes earlier. The deadline for completing the module will be no earlier than the last day of the module, sometimes later depending on the assignment. Check the module for assignments and deadlines.

*Major Research Project topic proposal due Sept 2 5pm

Sept 6 – 12 – Module 3

Sept 13 –19 – Module 4

Sept 20 – Sept 26 – Module 5

*Virtual Office Meeting with Prof (Sign up slots on Canvas for Sept 23 – Oct 2)

Sept 27 – Oct 3 – Module 6

Oct 4 – 10 – Module 7

Oct 11 – 17 – Module 8

Oct 18 – Oct 24 – Module 9

Oct 25 – Oct 31 – Module 10

Nov 1 – 7 – Module 11

Nov 8 – 14 – Module 12

Nov 11 – 19 – Synchronous Classes
  • Research Presentations/Peer Review (Anonymous)
    o Dates/Times tba

*December 7 Stop Day
  • Final Research Projects Due 5pm
University and Law School Policies

A. Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

B. Intellectual Pluralism
The Law School welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this course may address concerns to either myself, one of the law school deans, or the University’s Director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (http://osrr.missouri.edu). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of this course and the instructor at the end of the course.

C. Mental Health
The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care, and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00 – 5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

Visit our website at https://wellbeing.missouri.edu to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no cost to you.

Communication, Accommodation and Pivot Plans

The University requires that we provide communications, accommodation, and pivot plans.

Communication Plan: As informed above, the class will be mostly asynchronous with weekly modules covering different research techniques and topics. Each module will contain instructions for the work to be completed and when it is due. In addition, we will have the following mandatory synchronous Zoom meetings:

- August 27 at 7:30 pm (course introduction)
- A virtual office meeting to be scheduled with your professor on Canvas between Sept 23 – Oct 2 (assignment for your individual course research project will be given at this meeting)
- November 11-19 research project presentations
- I will be available throughout the semester for virtual office appointments.
Accommodation Plan: The course will accommodate a student who falls ill and, for example, has to be quarantined. Most of the issues that would arise in such a case are dealt with in the basic structure of this course which is mostly asynchronous with a few synchronous sessions. Assuming internet access, a student who was quarantined, but not experiencing significant illness, could continue to participate in the same way as someone who was not ill. Should quarantine create internet access issues, or should a student become so ill that even on-line participation was difficult or impossible other arrangements tailored to the particular situation would be crafted.

Pivot Plan: Faculty are asked to have a plan in place if the campus shifts completely to online classes. No pivot is required. This class is already completely online.