NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The information contained in this syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request. If you have a disability and need accommodation, please notify Associate Dean Ben Trachtenberg as soon as possible.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a notetaker), students must also register with The Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696, disabilitycenter@missouri.edu. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements.

For other MU resources for students with disabilities, see http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu.

Advanced Legal Research (Law 5320) Spring 2022 (2 Credits)

Meeting Time and Teaching Mode
Friday 8:45 – 10:25, Room 109
(Barring further developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic, classes will be held in-person.)

Prof. Randy Diamond, diamondrj@missouri.edu, Room 121A Law Library, 573-882-2935,
Office Hours by Appointment

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
Decreasing the Risk of COVID-19: If you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms, or are otherwise feeling unwell, do not attend class and contact your health care provider and/or student health services immediately. I will record class sessions and post the recordings with the class slides on the Canvas course page. Students who cannot attend a face-to-face class due to illness or medical reasons will be accommodated to facilitate their participation in the course (as explained below).

Accommodation and Pivot Plan: While this class is scheduled to meet on a face-to-face basis, note that any class periods are subject to being moved into a synchronous remote format as warranted by data about COVID rates within the University and Columbia communities or in the event the instructor must quarantine.

- **Accommodation.** If you are unable to attend a scheduled class in person due to illness or medical reasons, you may join the class by Zoom. If health reasons prevent you from joining the scheduled class by Zoom, you may still be counted as “present” by fulfilling the requirements in the Attendance Policy below.

- **Pivot.** If pandemic-related circumstances require class sessions to be moved fully online, class sessions will shift to synchronous Zoom sessions. An announcement that any particular class or set of classes will be conducted in a synchronous Zoom session will be posted via announcement on the course Canvas site.

Attendance Policy: According to American Bar Association accreditation guidelines, class attendance is required and expected of all students. Any student that misses more than four (4) regularly scheduled classes during the semester will be withdrawn from the course.

If you cannot attend a particular class session for health reasons, I will count you as “present” for that class session if
(1) you advise me of your absence by e-mail, either before or immediately after class,
(2) you review the recording of the class,
(3) you complete any in-class work/exercises by the deadline I set, and
(4) you send me an e-mail message with at least two questions regarding the materials on Canvas for the class you missed.

Assignments and Grading:
Individualized Research Assignments: 60%
Research Module Assignments: 20%
Research Presentation: 15%
Participation and Professionalism: 5%
Canvas: I will maintain a Canvas site for this course, which is available using your MU pawprint and password at canvas.missouri.edu or courses.missouri.edu. Please check the Canvas course site regularly for instructions and materials for class meetings and course assignments.


Participation and Professionalism
Consistent and thoughtful course participation is expected. Successful participation encompasses participating in discussions, asking questions and being an active listener. 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.

Grading Criteria
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.

Class Meetings
Lectures, demos, discussions, and in-class assignments. Dates/topics below subject to change.

Zoom Meeting w/Professor in February (Sign up on Canvas)
Research for the major course project will be assigned at this mandatory meeting.

Week 1 – Jan 21
- Course Objectives and Assignments
- See Course Bulletin Board or Canvas for pre-class assignment due Jan 19, 8pm
- Westlaw terms and connectors refresher

Week 2 – Jan 28
- Bloomberg Law dockets
- Google for Lawyers
- Current Awareness
- Major Research Project topic proposal due Feb 2nd 5pm
Week 3 – Feb 4
- Missouri Legislative Research (Cindy Shearrer, Associate Law Librarian)
- Federal Legislative Research

Week 4 – Feb 11
- Admin Law Research (Laura Wilcoxon, Student Services Librarian)
- Incorporation by Reference – Codes and Standards
- Office meeting w/professor – schedule on Canvas (Feb 10 – Feb 21)

Week 5 – Feb 18
- Law Review Symposium – class does not meet – attend one symposium session instead and complete assignments on Canvas

Week 6 – Feb 25
- Business and Transactional Research

Week 7 – March 4
- Legal Analytics
- Advanced Litigation Research

Week 8 – March 11
- Medical Research for Lawyers (Cindy Bassett, Associate Law Librarian)

Week 9 – March 18
- Expert Witness Research

Week 10 – March 25
- Policy Research
- Legal Research Innovation

Week 11 – April 8
- Critical Legal Studies – Laura Wilcoxon
- Critical Legal Research

Week 12 – April 15
- Class does not meet – prep for Week 13 and 14 student presentations

Week 13 – April 21 and 22
- Research Presentations
  - April 21 6pm - 8pm
  - April 22 8:30am – 10:25am
Week 14 – April 28 and 29

• Research Presentations
  o April 28 6pm - 8pm
  o April 29 8:30am – 10:25am
  o Final research projects due May 2 5pm

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the Law School community must acquire, develop, and present their work responsibly and honorably. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest, whether or not the effort is successful. The Law School community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include grade sanctions (up to and including failing the course) and disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. I encourage you to make sure that your work in this and other courses complies in all respects with the Law School’s Honor Code. If you have any question regarding whether your conduct complies with the Honor Code, you should contact me for clarification. If you become aware that you or another student have violated the Honor Code, you MUST report the violation promptly to me or to Dean Trachtenberg.

RECORDINGS: UM System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri. In this class, students may make audio recordings of course activity. However, any distribution or redistribution of such recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course (including, but not limited to, any posting of a recording to social media) is prohibited without my express permission and the permission of any other student in the class who was recorded. Students who violate this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Note: Because this class is being recorded already for posting to the Canvas site pursuant to the Accommodation and Pivot Plan discussed above, you may not find it necessary to record the class yourself.

INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM: The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact Dean Lidsky or Dean Trachtenberg, the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities, the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.