

# Syllabus

## Advanced Legal Research

Spring 2010

### Course Requirements

**Texts:** There is no required text. Mandatory reading assignments for each class will be posted on the course web page. There are a limited number of course readers for sale in the bookstore. If more students want pre-packaged readers I will have more made. But all of the articles are also accessible on the class web page. If articles are available on Westlaw or Lexis, there will be a direct link on the class web page. These articles can be accessed with your Westlaw or Lexis password. You must have both a Lexis and a Westlaw password for this class.

Articles not available on Westlaw or Lexis will be accessible to students registered in the class, through the class web page. These readings are password-protected. Passwords will be given out in class. Readings listed for a specific class meeting must be completed before the class begins. There is also a TWEN page for this class, where pre-class quizzes will be posted. Check TWEN before class to see if there is a pre-class quiz.

### Attendance and Class Participation

Classroom participation is required, and so is attendance. This class involves significant discussion and hands-on participation in classroom research projects. Class participation includes doing the assigned readings and any associated TWEN quizzes. Missing more than two full class meetings (six hours) will result in a grade reduction of at least one full letter grade.

### Grades/Due Dates

This is a 3-unit graded (non-GPA) course. Grades are determined as follows:

Classroom participation	20%	20 points
Written Assignment 1	10%	10 points
Written Assignment 2	20%	20 points
Final Research Assignment	50%	50 points
Total		100 points

All three written assignments must be entirely the individual work of each student. If it is not your individual work, it is plagiarism, which is student conduct subject to discipline. See the Hastings Academic Regulations.

This rule does not apply to the work we will do in class; you will be asked to work on some in-class assignments as group projects, and on these projects, collaboration and group work product is encouraged.

The first two written assignments require you to solve a series of short research problems applying the principles learned in class to real world legal problems. The final written assignment will also involve a real research problem, but requires you to solve more complex problems, and to demonstrate mastery of the full complement of legal strategies and resources discussed during the semester. The first two written assignments and the written comments on the assignments will help you prepare for the final research assignment.

Classroom participation and classroom exercises are not individually graded. The purpose of the exercises is to get an understanding of legal resources and how best to use them, so the focus is on the process and not on whether or not you have found the “correct” answer in the time allotted. However, failure to participate or to adequately complete all of the classroom exercises and the TWEN exercises will result in a grade reduction of up to 20 points.

**I do not accept unexcused** late assignments. If you cannot meet a class deadline, be sure and contact me before the due date to explain the problem and **get an extension of time** to complete your work. All three assignments must be delivered in print. Please make special arrangements to deliver work by e-mail if you will not be present to deliver a print version of your assignments.

Assignment 1 due	February 24, 2010 in class.
Assignment 2 due	April 7, 2010 in class.
Final Written Assignment due	April 26, 2010 by 5:00 p.m.

The Final Written Assignment is due April 26, 2010 by 5:00 p.m. and may be turned at my office, Room 435 (Library, 4th Floor, 200 Building).

### **Office Hours:**

My office is in the library, and I am almost always around. Please feel free to drop in anytime, or make an appointment to see me. I'll be at the Reference Desk or in my office during Thursday's dead hour from 3:30 to 4:30. The telephone is 4759. My email is [marts@uchastings.edu](mailto:marts@uchastings.edu).