

**Midland College
Syllabus
LGLA 1301
Legal Research and Writing**

Notice: For **online** classes, students ***MUST*** actively participate by completing an academic assignment by the official census date. Students who do not do so, will be dropped from the course.

Course Description:

Presents the fundamentals of legal research and writing emphasizing the paralegal’s role including resources and processes used in legal research and writing.

Text, References, and Supplies:

Putman, Pocket Guide to Legal Research
Putman, Pocket Guide to Legal Writing
Texas Rules of Form (green paperback)
 Westlaw and Westlaw Form Builder

Students Learning Outcomes and Core Competencies:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

Competencies	Purpose	Chapters or Projects
1. Exhibit ethical behavior	To prepare to assist in the practice of law	Throughout course
2. Develop a legal vocabulary	Use of correct legal terminology is fundamental for a legal assistant.	Throughout course. Vocabulary tests.
3. Locate court decisions in various legal reference books.	So you know where to find “the law” when a lawyer asks you to “pull a case” or statute.	Law library tour Putnam Legal Research, Chapters 1, 2 and 3 and Appendix A
4. Read, analyze and summarize statutes and court decisions; learn to identify legal holdings, dicta, issues and reasoning.	To learn how to interpret cases and the law.	Case briefs. Putnam Legal Research, Chapters 7,8,9

5. Read and write legal correspondence. Identify correct grammar usage.	Composing correspondence is an essential skill for a legal assistant	Putman, Legal Writing - Chapters 1-4 & 8, Appendix A
6. Identify procedural history of cases. List the various parts of a court opinion.	To understand how to find out whether a case is still “good” law.	Prepare case briefs Shepardize cases Putnam, Legal Research, Chapters 7, 8, 9.
7. Analyze court decisions, case precedent and statutes and apply them to given fact situations.	To understand how case law affects your client’s cases.	Case briefs and presentation
8. Compare and contrast court opinions.	To enhance your ability to write a persuasive memo in support of your client’s position.	Interoffice Memorandums Putman, Legal Writing-Ch 7, 9. Putman, Legal Research, Ch 10.
9. Write an effective argument utilizing #7 & #8. Proper legal citation.	To enhance your ability to write a persuasive memo in support of your client’s position.	Interoffice Memorandums Putman Legal Writing, Ch 7, 9 and Appendix B.

Student Contributions, Responsibilities, and Class Policies:

Students will be expected to exhibit professional behavior during class and are expected to attend class virtually through participation in Zoom, Canvas Conferences, Discussions, Interview groups, Weekly warm-ups, etc. If it becomes necessary for a student to miss, it will be the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor during scheduled office hours in order to receive missed assignments.

Late work will not be accepted. Students may turn in assignments early.

A Lock Down Browser and **LDB+Monitor** are required for students to use for designated gradable items. A fee will be paid by the student per course to add the Monitor feature for proctoring the final or other exams. It is the responsibility of the student to pay to add Monitor to LDB prior to the exams due date.

Turn It In software is used when students have to write and submit papers for grading to evaluate authentic work.

Additionally, students are responsible for the following:

- Involvement with the material is essential – students must read, take notes, and ask questions.
- Students must attend class regularly by checking Canvas.

- Students must come to class prepared (participate in webinar/canvas conference/ Zoom/Skype/etc) and prepare for on-line assignments in a timely manner.
- Students are expected to be able to read, write, and understand standard English: the course is based on extensive amounts of material given in lecture and/or notes, audio visual aids, and assigned readings.
- A schedule of class events will be given to each student at the beginning of the semester. Additionally, information will be posted on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to know exam dates and when assignments are due.
- It is also the responsibility of the student to know their progress in the course.
- If a student is absent when exams are given or assignments are given or due, the student is still responsible for having the work done on time or making up the exam, at the discretion of the instructor.
- If the student takes the initiative the instructor will advise them on their progress in the course.
- Instructors cannot drop students with a "W", this must be accomplished officially by the student.
- Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Services. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Office of Student Services when requesting accommodation.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally and courteously in the classroom and/or the on-line environment.
- Students are expected to have academic integrity and to adhere to the guidelines in the Midland College Student Handbook.

Evaluation of Students: Exams, essays, quizzes, case briefs, reports, written and/or oral projects/presentations (research, debates, informative overviews, drafting court documents, interviews, etc.), In-Class Activities, law library tour, Courtroom observation paper, and participation via discussion boards will be used to meet objectives in the course.

Students will receive a final letter grade based on the following scale:

- A = 90 to 100%
- B = 80 to 89%
- C = 70 to 79%
- D = 60 to 69%
- F = 59% or less

Course Schedule:

See schedule posted in Canvas.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit Midland College Accommodation Services and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a "Notice of Accommodations" letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Tana Baker, Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer, 3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131, Midland, TX 79705, (432) 685-4781, tbaker@midland.edu. For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit U.S. Department of Education or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

Spanish

Midland College no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, discapacidad, o edad en sus programas o actividades. La siguiente persona ha sido designada para responder a cualquier pregunta o duda sobre estas políticas no discriminatorias: Tana Baker, Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer, 3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131, Midland, TX 79705, (432) 685-4781, tbaker@midland.edu. Para más información sobre estas políticas no discriminatorias , visite U.S Department of Education o llame al 1 (800) 421-3481.

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