

North Hennepin Community College

PLEG 2211: Legal Research and Writing I

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

This course requires any of these four prerequisites

PLEG 1111 - Introduction to Law and Paralegal Studies

ENGL 1111 - College Writing I

ENGL 1201 - College Writing I (Minimum grade: 1.67 GPA Equivalent)

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Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course presents a study of methods of legal research related primarily to case law, which include the use of digests, encyclopedias, reporter systems, and practice manuals. The students will gain an understanding of law libraries and will be introduced to computer assisted legal research. Students will learn analytical writing skills for use in preparation of legal memoranda. Use of Blue Book citation methods will be emphasized. Prerequisite: Engl 1201 or Engl 1200 and PLeg 1111

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/09/1997 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. a. Basic methods of legal research
- b. Use of primary sources such as judicial opinions
- c. Use of secondary sources such as encyclopedias, texts, and restatements
- d. Use of finding tools such as digests, indexes, and citators
- e. Computer assisted legal research: WESTLAW and internet
- f. Legal analysis
- g. Law libraries and collections
- h. Forms of legal citation
- i. Grammar, punctuation, and usage
- j. Legal writing

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Demonstrate and apply a basic understanding of how to conduct manual and computerized legal research (ELO 2, Program Goal 5).
2. Conduct legal analysis, use good grammatical and legal vocabulary, and understand the unique form and style of writing required in the legal field through preparation of research memoranda (ELO 2, ELO 4, Program Goal 3, Program Goal 4, Program Goal 5, Program Goal 6).
3. Interpret and analyze basic court opinions, and understand the legal system and its terminology (ELO 1, ELO 2, Program Goal 1, Program Goal 4, Program goal 6).
4. Identify and illustrate parties, theories, key facts and issues in a legal case. (ELO 2, ELO 4, Program Goal 4, Program Goal 6).
5. Draft and rewrite letters, memoranda and other selected documents (ELO 2, Program Goal 3, Program Goal 6).
6. Find, research, and cite legal cases (ELO 2, ELO 4, Program Goal 5, Program Goal 6).
7. Interpret, use and evaluate the Shepard system and the Blue Book for citations (ELO 2, Program Goal 6).
8. Compile legal research information and draft a short memorandum of the findings (ELO 2, ELO 4, Program Goal 3, Program Goal 4, Program Goal 6, Program Goal 7).
9. Recall, interpret and analyze the basic rules of legal professional responsibility, ethical considerations and confidentiality as it relates to legal research (ELO 2, ELO 3, ELO 4, Program Goal 2, Program Goal 4.)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World--Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills--Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement--Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.
4. Integrative and Applied Learning--Including: Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general education, liberal studies, specialized studies and activities in the broader campus community.