

# North Hennepin Community College

## PLEG 2212: Legal Research and Writing II

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites:

This course requires the following prerequisite  
PLEG 2211 - Legal Research and Writing I

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course is a continuation of Legal Research & Writing 1. This course focuses on primary sources other than case law such as constitutional law, statutory law, administrative law, and court rules. The student will also study secondary sources. This course provides the student with additional experience in the advancement of analytical writing skills for use in the preparation of legal memoranda. Blue Book citations relative to sources studied will be emphasized. The student will also gain additional experience with computer assisted legal research. Prerequisite: PLEg 2211

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

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1.
  - a. Advanced methods of legal research
  - b. Use of primary sources such as statutes, administrative rules and cases, constitutions and court rules
  - c. Use of secondary sources such as loose-leaf services, periodicals, newspapers, 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. Advanced legal writing

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Demonstrate and conduct advanced forms of 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 primary and secondary sources of law (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 primary and secondary sources (ELO 2, ELO 4, Program Goal 5, Program Goal 6).
7. Interpret, use and evaluate the Shepard system and the Blue Book for citations related to other primary sources and secondary sources (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 5, 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 c.)

#### **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.