

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

 X Transfer Course X A.A. Degree applicable course
(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: PLS 150/LS 150 Legal Research

UNIT VALUE: 2

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 32

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE:

COREQUISITE:

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: A minimum grade of "C" in English 100

SCOPE OF COURSE:

The fundamental aspects of legal research through an in-depth analysis of case law, statutory law, and administrative law on both a Federal and State level. It will further instruct the student on the appropriate use of secondary sources used in legal research.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify legal sources found at both the Federal and State level;
2. Utilize legal terminology facilitating the acquisition of relevant material through the use of available indexes;
3. Utilize legal sources (at the Federal level) such as the United States Code Congressional and Administrative News, United States Code, Code of Federal Regulations;
4. Utilize legal sources (at the State level) such as Statutes and Amendments to the Codes, California codes, California Code of Regulations, and other local municipal laws;
5. Locate and identify specific laws, codes, case law, and supporting documentation from other secondary sources and finding tools;

6. Locate and brief specific Federal and State appellate cases, additional material to be utilized includes Shepard's Citators and West Digest in order to perform a selected case history;
7. Evaluate practice guides, treatises, legal encyclopedias, and periodical material.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

A. Introduction

1. Overview of the American Legal System
2. Sources and Organization of the Law
3. Effective Legal Research

B. Primary Authorities

1. Constitutions
 - a. History of the United States Constitution
 - b. California constitution
2. Federal and State statutes
 - a. United States Code; Congressional Legislative histories through USCCAN
 - b. California codes as indexed through Deerings and West; Statutes and Amendments to the California Code
 - c. Using subject indexes to locate relevant statutory material.
 - d. Thorough discussion of the role of the Legislative branch and its law-making power.
3. Administrative Law (Rules and Regulations)
 - a. Code of Federal Regulations; Federal Register
 - b. California Code of Regulations
 - c. Discussion of Administrative Agencies as a part of the Executive branch.
4. Court opinions and case digests.
 - a. Locate case law in appropriate reporters using case digests.
 - b. Discussion of both federal and state court systems.
 - c. United States Reports; Federal Reporter; Federal Supplement.
 - d. California Reports; California Appellate Reports; California Reporter; Pacific Reporter.
 - e. Advance sheets and the Daily Appellate Reports.
 - f. West's key note system as utilized in Supreme Court Digest, Federal Digest and California Digest.

C. Secondary Sources

1. Legal Encyclopedias
 - a. Corpus Juris Secundum, American Jurisprudence, Cal Jur
2. Legal Treatises & Practice Guides
 - a. Witkin's Summary of California Law
 - b. The Rutter Group
3. Legal Periodicals
 - a. Bar Journals and Legal Newspapers
 - b. Law Review Articles.

D. California Style Manual & Shepard's

1. Teaching proper legal citation format to be used in legal writing.
2. Updating law through the use of abbreviations and symbols unique to Shepard's.

REQUIRED READING:

Hein, Edward. Legal Research for Paralegals. West, 1996.

Jessen, Edward. California Style Manual – A Handbook of Legal Writing for California Courts and Lawyers. 4th edition. West, 2000.

SUGGESTED READING: None

REQUIRED WRITING:

Case briefs.

Weekly research assignments.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes.

Students can expect to spend 4 – 5 hours per week in a law library completing legal research assignments in addition to class lectures. The class lectures will be used to cover all aspects of legal research illustrated in the text, as well as discuss problems encountered on the previous assignment.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

DISTANCE LEARNING:

This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes No

If yes, check all that apply:

- Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

The course will be graded on a 300 point scale with two quizzes each worth 50 points, one final exam worth 100 points, and the weekly research assignments worth a total of 100 points. All assignments are to be completed in a neat and professional manner.

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes ___ No X Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Angelo Corpora, ext. 2501

SIGNATURES ON FILE
