LEX 120 Legal Research and Writing I

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Prerequisites: ENG 111
Corequisites: None

This course introduces the techniques of legal research and writing. Emphasis is on locating, analyzing, applying, and updating sources of law; effective legal writing, including proper

B. Secondary authority
1. Legal dictionaries
2. Legal encyclopedia
3. Treatises
4. A.L.R annotations

III. Finding primary authority
A. Use of indexes
B. Use of the digest system
C. Use of computer-assisted legal research

IV. Using secondary authority
A. Annotations
B. Encyclopedia
C. Dictionaries
D. Treatises

V. Validating authority through Shepard's Citations
A. Methods
1. Print Shepard's
2. Electronic Shepard's
B. Types of authority
1. Cases
2. Statutes

VI. Computer-assisted legal research
A. Methods
1. On-line systems
a. Westlaw Next
b. Internet search methods of computer assisted legal research
B. Types of searches
1. Finding documents using citations
a. Westlaw

VII. Query formulation
A. Westlaw
B. Terms and connectors
C. Natural language
1. Citator services

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:
The textbook and other instructional material will be determined by the instructor.