

LAW1301 Legal Research Reading and Writing

Code

LAW1301

Title

Legal Research Reading and Writing

Prerequisites

None

Credits

3

Description

This course introduces students to the methodology of reading legal texts: extending from Treaties, constitutions, legislation and cases. The course also covers the basic techniques of legal research, writing and analysis. Students learn to brief cases, perhaps synthesize cases from related fields, and write legal documents such as opinions, memoranda, or thesis related essays. The course aims at providing students with insight into the nature of legal scholarship. For this purpose, the notion of "scholarship" will first be examined in general. Based on this solid foundation of skills, students undertake an in depth study of research scholarship and learn how to prepare, draft and outline a thesis manuscript.

Objectives

The student should be able to analyze a case and communicate conclusions in writing to supervisor or colleague; Write various office communications including objective memo. Apply citation rules conforming to at least one manual of style; Evaluate websites based on a set of criteria for trustworthiness and objectivity Demonstrate an ability to execute research independently and an understanding of scope and limitations of electronic databases Demonstrate a basic knowledge of a typical thesis format and approaches to legal topics Define 'literature review' and demonstrate the ability to write a basic review.

Assessment

60 % -first and second assessments

40 % -final assessment

Tentative course outline**Week1**

Introductory material

Week2

Case briefs

Week3

Research: KZ databases

Week4

Databases, Case Brief

Week5

Memo Writing

Week6

Case briefs and drafting memo as homework; Zakon

Week7

Memo Writing; review of what to write for a memorandum

Week8

Literature review writing assignment Ebooks Citation

Week9

European Law research Comparative law Student presentation on country

Week10

Proquest/ Presentation on country

Week11

Literature Review: How to judge websites; writing a thesis

Week12

Presentations: Student presentations of countries

Week13

Discussion of first draft and of article mapping

Week14

Examples of Academic: Discussion of writing samples

Week15

Review