

PLSC 476: Empirical Legal Studies

Christopher Zorn

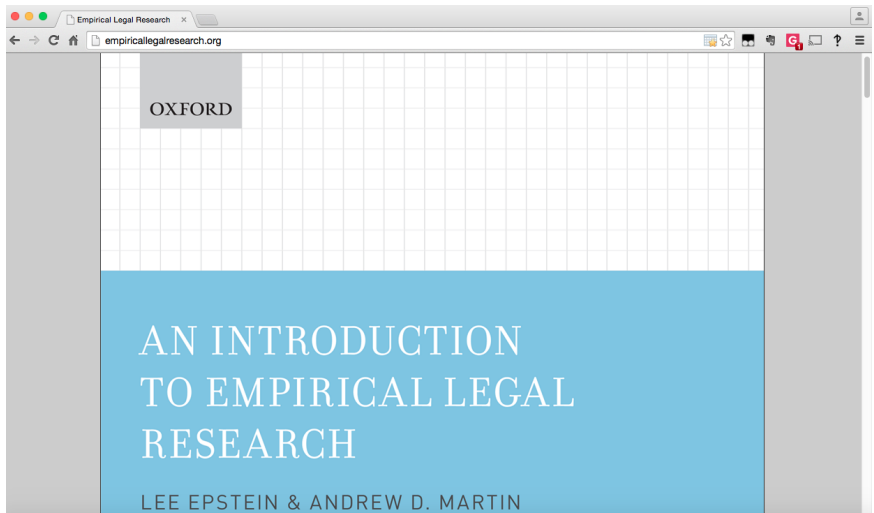
January 19, 2021

Course Goals

1. Understand and apply empirical (quantitative) methods and tools to inform aspects of U.S. legal / judicial systems.
2. Further develop research skills and tools that will allow you to conduct your own research.

- Course meetings: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:35-5:50 p.m. ET.
- Instruction is *remote synchronous*, via Zoom, at <https://psu.zoom.us/j/98985581152>
- No class on February 9 or March 11, 2021 (wellness days)

The Course Text



Grades will be based upon:

- Four research modules / short papers (15% each)
- A take-home final examination / project (40%)

Class participation will *not* be a component of the grade in PLSC 476.

Communication, etc.

- (Non-virtual) Office: 236 Pond Lab
- (Virtual) Office Hours: By appointment
- E-mail: zorn@psu.edu
- Zoom: <https://psu.zoom.us/my/prisonrodeo>
- Mobile Phone / Text: 803-553-4077
- Twitter: [@prisonrodeo](https://twitter.com/prisonrodeo)

Things To Do Before Thursday

1. Bookmark: <https://github.com/PrisonRodeo/PLSC476-git>
2. Download and install the following:
 - **R** (v. 4.0.3, from cran.r-project.org), and
 - **RStudio (Desktop)** (v. 1.4.1103, from www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio)
3. Read over the “Useful R Resources” document on the github repository