



## Undergraduate Course Syllabus

### JUS 224: Legal and Justice Research Methods

Center: Online

#### Course Prerequisites

None

#### Course Description

A criminal justice exploration of the specialized methods and sources of legal and justice research in these areas. Justice publications and resources, case collections, computer-assisted research, constitutional materials, legal history, legal periodicals, legislative history, practice and procedures, and social science materials related to law. Application of legal research strategies will be required.

#### Course Outcomes

- Examine the various sources of American law for conducting effective research
- Apply appropriate research techniques for determining the law that is applicable to various legal issues
- Analyze controlling laws for their relevancy to various legal situations to determine appropriate legal action
- Create memorandums that effectively communicate the application of laws to the facts of a legal situation

#### Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through SNHU's online bookstore, [MBS Direct](#), rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

*Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law*

Stephen Elias

Nolo

Seventeenth Edition

2015

ISBN: 978-1-4133-2182-1

### Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place in Blackboard on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions forum in Blackboard so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

### Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	8	25	200
Activities	2	50	100
Short Paper	1	50	50
Milestone One	1	100	100
Milestone Two	1	100	100
Milestone Three	1	100	100
Final Project Submission	1	350	350
		<b>Total Course Points:</b>	1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

### University Grading System: Undergraduate

Total Points: 1,000				
Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points	Points Equivalent	
			Lower	Upper
A	93-100	4	930	1000
A-	90-92	3.67	900	929
B+	87-89	3.33	870	899
B	83-86	3	830	869
B-	80-82	2.67	800	829
C+	77-79	2.33	770	799
C	73-76	2	730	769
C-	70-72	1.67	700	729
D+	67-69	1.33	670	699
D	60-66	1	600	669
F	0-59	0	0	599
I	Incomplete			
IF	Incomplete/Failure*			
IP	In Progress (past end of term)			
W	Withdrawn			

\*Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

## Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Course Information area in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder.

## Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Learning Modules area in Blackboard contains one module folder for each week of the course. All reading and assignment information can be found in the folders. Assignments and discussion board posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module in Blackboard.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Introduction to Legal Research, Analysis, and Methods <i>Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law</i> , Chapter 1 1-1 Discussion: American Law 1-2 Activity: Case Advancement Process Flowchart 1-3 Final Project Review
2	Finding Legal Resources <i>Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law</i> , Chapter 2 2-1 Discussion: Locating Legal Information 2-2 Final Project Milestone One: Draft of Section I (Analyze Fact Pattern)
3	Identifying Your Legal Issue <i>Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law</i> , Chapter 3 3-1 Discussion: Legal Research Methods 3-2 Activity: Identifying a Legal Issue and Its Solution
4	How to Find Law <i>Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law</i> , Chapters 4 and 5 4-1 Discussion: Secondary Sources 4-2 Final Project Milestone Two: Draft of Section II (Research)
5	Finding and Using Case Law <i>Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law</i> , Chapters 6 and 7 5-1 Discussion: Case Law 5-2 Final Project Milestone Three: Draft of Section III (Apply the Law)
6	Validating Your Research <i>Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law</i> , Chapter 8 6-1 Discussion: Updating the Law 6-2 Short Paper: Shepardizing Cases
7	The Culmination of Research Efforts: Preparing a Legal Memorandum <i>Legal Research: How to Find and Understand the Law</i> , Chapter 9 7-1 Discussion: Memorandum of Law 7-2 Final Project Submission: Fact Pattern Analysis

8	Final Reflection 8-1 Discussion: Applying Legal Research
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### **Attendance Policy**

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion to Blackboard during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

### **Late Assignments Policy**

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

### **SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Student Handbook**

Review the [student handbook](#).

### **Diversity and Disability Statement**

The College of Online and Continuing Education (COCE) at SNHU values diversity and inclusion. SNHU strives to create inclusive and welcoming academic environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion, please notify the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. We will work with you and your instructor to address needs and concerns. We encourage all students with known or suspected physical, medical, sensory, psychiatric, and/or learning disabilities to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in order to assess learning needs and take advantage of available academic accommodations and support services.

SNHU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, citizenship, marital status, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, veteran/military status, or genetic information in its programs and activities. Requests for disabilities accommodations within COCE should be directed to:

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

(866) 305-9430

(877) 520-8916 (fax)

[drc@snhu.edu](mailto:drc@snhu.edu)

We welcome COCE students, faculty, and staff to consult with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) on disability-related questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Complaints regarding discrimination and accommodations should be directed to:

(603) 645-9664

(603) 645-9717 (fax)

[adacompliance@snhu.edu](mailto:adacompliance@snhu.edu)

**Academic Honesty Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

**Copyright Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

**SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy**

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

**Southern New Hampshire University Policies**

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).

**Assessment Calibration and Student Work Samples**

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University's College of Online and Continuing Education may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your advisor. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please contact the assessment calibration administrator at [assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu](mailto:assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu). See [this document](#) for more information.