



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: LEGL 1320 Legal Research

Section ID: 80412.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

Catalog Course Description: An introduction to principles of legal research including traditional and online resources. **(F)**

Meeting Details: M; 06:00PM - 09:05PM; TECH 204

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Ryan McMillan, J.D.

Office Location: Tech 240

Office Hours: Office hours will be posted on the instructor's office door. Drop-ins are welcome, but please make an appointment for an extended conference.

Office Phone: 423-585-6975

Email: Ryan.McMillan@ws.edu

Supervisor Name: Dr. Tera Howerton

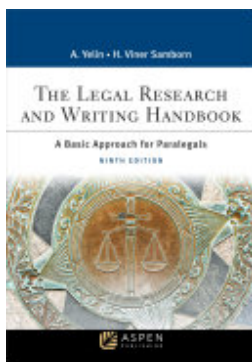
Supervisor Phone: 423-585-6961

Secretary Name: Tammy Jones/Kathy McFarling

Secretary Phone: 423-585-2644/423-585-6972

Required Textbook(s) and Materials

The Legal Research and Writing Handbook

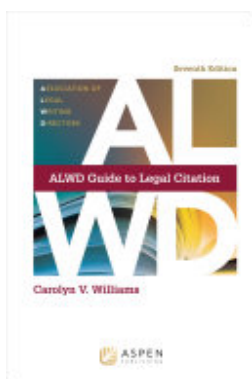


ISBN: 9781543801637

Authors: Andrea B. Yelin, Hope Viner Samborn

Publisher: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business

Publication Date: 2022-04-19



ALWD Guide to Legal Citation

ISBN: 9781543831221

Authors: Carolyn V. Williams

Publisher: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business

Publication Date: 2021-05-05

Supplemental or Optional Materials

N/A

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- 1. Use both print and electronic sources to locate applicable primary and secondary sources of law;
- 2. Record, evaluate, and analyze source materials;
- 3. Identify and locate resources to update and verify the reliability of legal authority; and
- 4. Demonstrate a basic understanding of legal citations.

Instructional Approach and Methods

1. Instructional methods will include lecture, book-based research, online research, and group assignments. Questions about the material are encouraged.
2. Evaluation methods will include completion of research assignments, in class exercises, class participation, and two exams.

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

1. This course includes two exams.

Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Assignments

Exams. There will be two exams will be given during this course. Together the exams account for 30% of the final grade.

Research Drills. There will be five practice research drills throughout the semester. The grade will be based on the student's effort and willingness to make a good faith attempt at completing the assigned tasks. These account for 10% of the final grade.

Research Assignments. There will be five graded research assignments throughout the semester. Together, the research assignments count for 50% of the final grade.

Class Participation

The more you are present (in-person or online) and engaged, the more likely you are to learn the material. And you never know when the thing you miss is the thing that you needed to know to help a client. For this reason, class participation is worth 10% of the student's final grade, with points being earned as follows:

<u>Absences</u>	<u>Points</u> <u>Earned</u>
0 – 2	100
3 – 4	90
5 – 6	80
7 – 8	70
9+	0

Given the fact that some may choose to attend classes virtually, I have built an extra absence into this chart in an attempt to account for the potential of technical difficulties. If this happens to you, please let me know and I will try to help you resolve any issues that I can.

Course and Class Policies/Procedures

Late Submission Policy. Students wishing to submit an assignment late must submit a Motion for Late Submission and submit it to the instructor together with the completed assignment. The Motion should set forth the reasons for the late submission. The instructor will then decide at his own discretion whether to grant the Motion, to deduct an appropriate number of points (based on the lateness of the assignment), or to reject the Motion and late work.

Online/Web-Enhanced Course Supplementary Information

Virtual Office Hours	Virtual Office Hours held every Tuesday. To make an appointment, email me at Ryan.McMillan@ws.edu
Library Information	n/a
Technical Support	n/a
Web Addresses/Resources	Announcements, course handouts, and other documents related to the course may be posted in eLearn. Check eLearn regularly for updates.
Guidelines for Communication: Email, Discussion Posts, Chat	If you need to reach the instructor, please send an email to Ryan.McMillan@ws.edu

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

As grading for course assignments in this class require significant consideration of complex legal questions, it may take up to two weeks for the instructor to return grades.

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
 - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
 - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
 - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](#)
ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](#)
ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\)](#)
helpdesk.ws.edu

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\)](#)
ws.edu/student-services/disability/

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](https://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](https://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.
- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](http://www.waltersstate.edu/home/)
[ws.edu/home/](http://www.waltersstate.edu/home/)

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](#)

<ws.edu/set/>

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)