

CAPS Seminar: Introduction to Research in Law, Spring 2008

Course Overview

This is a non-credit seminar offered to undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning about resources for researching the law. The seminar is offered by the [D'Angelo Law Library](#), [Habeas Corpus](#) and [Career and Placement Services](#).

Student Enrollment

Enrollment is open to undergraduate and graduate students interested in legal research resources. There will be two sections, limited to 22 students each.

Faculty

Instructors are Margaret Schilt, Faculty Services Librarian, and Todd Ito, Reference Librarian, D'Angelo Law Library.

Course Schedule

There are three course meetings. The introductory meeting will be at the Law School, in Seminar Room B. Classes 1 and 2 will be in Room 153 at the Regenstein Library.

Introductory meeting, including a tour of the D'Angelo Law Library.

The introductory meeting will be offered twice; students must attend one of the two offered times.

Wednesday, April 2	12:15 PM – 1:15 PM
Wednesday, April 2	4:05 PM – 5:00 PM

Class 1: United States legal system, case law and secondary sources

Tuesday, April 8	Section A: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
	Section B: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Class 2: Statutory law, administrative law and legislative history

Tuesday, April 15	Section A: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
	Section B: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Outcomes: what you will take away from this course

Upon completing the seminar, you will have a basic understanding of the following:

1. United States legal system
 - a. Structure
 - b. Types of legal resources: primary law and secondary materials
 - c. Legal citation form, common abbreviations, legal terminology
 - d. Federal and state courts: three levels
2. Secondary sources in legal research: types and uses
3. Case law: United States case reporting system
 - a. Case reporters in print and online
 - b. Anatomy of a reported case
 - c. How to find relevant cases in print and online
 - d. How to ensure your cases are still good law: updating
4. Statutory law
 - a. Publication of statutes: session laws, codes and annotated codes
 - b. Finding statutory law in print and online
 - c. Updating statutory law
5. Federal administrative law
 - a. Rules/regulations (quasi-legislative); hearings/decisions (quasi-judicial)
 - b. Sources of federal administrative law: Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations
 - c. Other resources for administrative law
6. Legislative history
 - a. Documents generated in legislative process
 - b. How to locate information on legislation

Requirements: what we expect from you

1. Attendance at one of the introductory meetings
2. Attendance at Class 1 and Class 2
3. Completion of the readings we assign during the course. We plan for less than 100 pages spread over the two weeks of the course. The readings for Class 1 will be handed out during the introductory meeting, and the readings for Class 2 at Class 1.
4. There will be a set of exercises assigned at each class designed to familiarize you with use of the resources discussed in class. Neither the course itself nor the homework will be graded but, in order to receive a certificate of completion of the seminar, you must complete both assignments satisfactorily.