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| **PROFESSOR:** | **PHONE NUMBER:** |
| **OFFICE LOCATION:** | **E-MAIL:** |
| **OFFICE HOURS:** | **SEMESTER:** |

1. **COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE, CATALOG DESCRIPTION, CREDITS:**

**PLA 1103 LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING I (3 CREDITS)**

This course presents an introduction to legal research including citation form, case law, reading and finding statutes, legislative history, constitutional law, administrative law, court rules, local rules, loose-leaf services, secondary references, computer research, and ethical considerations.

1. **PREREQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE:**

ENC 1101 (MINIMUM GRADE OF “C”) or equivalent

**CO-REQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE:**

None

1. **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:** Topic Outline.

• Introduction to Legal Research

• Legal Research Techniques

• Legal Writing

• Proper Citation Authority

• Use of Legal Treatises, Texts, Reports, Digests and Codes

• Legal Analysis

• Ethical Issues in Legal Research and Writing

1. **All courses at Florida SouthWestern State College contribute to the general education program by meeting one or more of the following general education competencies:**

**C**ommunicate clearly in a variety of modes and media.

**R**esearch and examine academic and non-academic information, resources, and evidence.

**E**valuate and utilize mathematical principles, technology, scientific and quantitative data.

**A**nalyze and create individual and collaborative works of art, literature, and performance.

**T**hink critically about questions to yield meaning and value.

**I**nvestigate and engage in the transdisciplinary applications of research, learning, and knowledge.

**V**isualize and engage the world from different historical, social, religious, and cultural approaches.

**E**ngage meanings of active citizenship in one’s community, nation, and the world.

**A.**  **General Education Competencies and Course Outcomes**

1. Listed here are the course outcomes/objectives assessed in this course which play an integral part in contributing to the student’s general education along with the general education competency it supports.

General Education Competency: **Research**

Course Outcomes or Objectives Supporting the General Education Competency Selected:

* + 02.07 Contrast case law with statutory law, and explain how to interpret statutes, using intrinsic and extrinsic sources.

**2.  Listed here are the course outcomes/objectives assessed in this course which play a *supplemental* role in contributing to the student’s general education along with the general education competency it supports.**

General Education Competency: **Communicate**

Course Outcomes or Objectives Supporting the General Education Competency Selected:

* + 02.01 Explain the court system of the State of Florida.

**B.** **Other Course Objectives/Standards**

* + 02.0 Demonstrate the ability to utilize the law library and apply this knowledge to legal writing.
  + (Program Outcome) The student will be able to:
  + 02.02 List the basic steps in legal research.
  + 02.03 List and explain the different State and Federal courts, and describe the jurisdiction of each.
  + 02.04 Discuss the fundamental features of civil litigation, criminal litigation, and administrative procedures.
  + 02.05 Discuss the term “authority” as it is used in legal writing, and explain the hierarchy of authority, and the difference between mandatory and persuasive authority.
  + 02.06 Discuss case law, how it is made, its component parts, and how to use cases to resolve a legal problem.
  + 02.08 Demonstrate how to “brief” a case.

1. **DISTRICT-WIDE POLICIES:**

**Programs for Students with Disabilities**

Florida SouthWestern State College, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the College’s guiding principles, offers students with documented disabilities programs to equalize access to the educational process. Students needing to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or who suspect that their academic performance is affected by a disability should contact the Office of Adaptive Services at the nearest campus. The office locations and telephone numbers for the Office of Adaptive Services at each campus can be found at <http://www.fsw.edu/adaptiveservices>.

**REPORTING TITLE IX VIOLATIONS**

Florida SouthWestern State College, in accordance with Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act, has established a set of procedures for reporting and investigating Title IX violations including sexual misconduct.  Students who need to report an incident or need to receive support regarding an incident should contact the Equity Officer at [equity@fsw.edu](mailto:equity@fsw.edu).  Incoming students are encouraged to participate in the Sexual Violence Prevention training offered online.  Additional information and resources can be found on the College’s website at <http://www.fsw.edu/sexualassault>.

1. **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDENTS:**

List specific course assessments such as class participation, tests, homework assignments, make-up procedures, etc.

1. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

The professor’s specific policy concerning absence. (The College policy on attendance is in the Catalog, and defers to the professor.)

1. **GRADING POLICY:**

Include numerical ranges for letter grades; the following is a range commonly used by many faculty:

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

Below 60 = F

(Note: The “incomplete” grade [“I”] should be given only when unusual circumstances warrant. An “incomplete” is not a substitute for a “D,” “F,” or “W.” Refer to the policy on “incomplete grades.)

1. **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

(In correct bibliographic format.)

1. **RESERVED MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:**

Other special learning resources.

1. **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

This section includes assignments for each class meeting or unit, along with scheduled Library activities and other scheduled support, including scheduled tests.

1. **ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR CLASS PROCEDURES OR POLICIES:**

(Which would be useful to the students in the class.)