

LEGAL RESEARCH
[LEGL 121]
Imperial Valley College | Spring 2014 | 3 semester units

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Brian D. Bill
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Required Text: Legal Research and Writing for Paralegals, Tepper and Bevans ISBN 978-0-07-352462-7

Course Description: **LEGL 121 - Legal Research**

This course provides an introduction to legal research and writing, including a comprehensive working knowledge and understanding of legal research materials and tools. The course covers the traditional and basic methods of legal research, sources of applicable statutory law and case law information, including use citations and computerized legal search systems. Students will learn to develop research strategies and to write legal memoranda and briefs. (CSU)

Recommended Preparation: ENGL 110 or ENGL 101. In addition, students are expected to have a basic familiarity with computer terms, to be able to use applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, and email, and to do online research. These skills can be learned in CIS 100.

Course Format: Course material will be covered through a combination of lecture and group discussion. Occasionally, other audio/visual aids will be used in class to demonstrate the material. Assignments and assessments will be based on the text, content covered during class, and other outside materials.

Attendance: I will only allow one class absence per semester with no penalty. A second absence will result in 0 points for 5% of your participation and attendance grade. Because we only meet once per week, it is imperative that you attend every class and arrive to class on time. Please be advised that you are responsible for dropping the course if you can no longer attend or are not passing the course. Do not rely on me to do so. If you are unable to attend class due to an emergency, you are responsible for speaking with other classmates to obtain the material or notes that you missed. If you need help or information, please contact me for assistance.

INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete a degree or certificate at Imperial Valley College will demonstrate competency in these five areas: communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, information literacy and global awareness

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

Grading:

Attendance/Participation/quizzes	20%
Exercises	20%
Project – Portfolio	30%
Memo Hypothetical	30%

The grading scale is:

90 to 100%.....	A
80 to 89%.....	B
70 to 79%.....	C
60 to 69%.....	D

All assignments must be submitted on time in order to receive full credit. I will accept an assignment one day late for half credit. Assignment will not be accepted beyond that time. The mid-term and the final must be taken on the day they are schedule.

I encourage collaboration on assignments; however, cheating will not be tolerated. Please make sure you are submitting your own work and are using proper references when using other people’s material. If you submit plagiarized work, you will receive an F for the assignment.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS): Students with disabilities at Imperial Valley College are eligible for accommodations related to their disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Services are provided to students with mobility, visual, hearing, speech, and orthopedic impairments, learning disabilities, psychological disabilities, Acquired Brain Injury, and other health impairments. Services are provided on an individual basis and may include reader services, note taking, tutoring, counseling, sign language interpreting, priority registration, learning disability assessment, and adapted computer instruction. DSP&S is located in Room 2117 (Health Sciences Building) and can also be reached by telephone at 760-355-6312.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Your pre-paid session health fee entitles you to Student Health Services. ***These include both physical and mental health services.*** Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District and El Centro Regional Medical Center were selected as providers of the basic health service on campus such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. The services also include health promotion and education programs. Walk-in and appointment services may be accessed by scheduling an

appointment or walking in. Services are not available when IVC is not in session.

Please contact 760-355-6310 or visit Room 2109 for more information.

January 23	Introductions, Syllabus
January 30	Chapter 1 Exercises 1, 6 Portfolio Assignment Chapter 2 Exercises 3, 7 Portfolio Assignment
February 6	Chapter 2 cont. Chapter 3 Exercises 2, 3, 5 Portfolio Assignment
February 13	Chapter 4 Exercises 1, 3, 5 Portfolio Assignment Chapter 5 Exercises 1, 3, 4, 5 Portfolio Assignment
February 20	Chapter 5 cont. Chapter 6 Portfolio Assignment
February 27	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
March 6	Chapter 9 Exercises 2, 4, 7 Portfolio Assignment Chapter 10 Exercises 1, 7 Portfolio Assignment
March 13	Chapter 10 cont. Chapter 11 Exercises 1, 3, 5

March 20	Chapter 12 Exercises 2, 5, 6 Portfolio Assignment Chapter 13 Exercises 1, 3, 4 Portfolio Assignment
March 27	Chapter 13 Cont. Chapter 14 Exercises 1 Portfolio Assignment
April 3	Chapter 15 Exercises 1, 2 Portfolio Assignment
April 10	Chapter 16 Exercises 2 Portfolio Assignment
April 17	Chapter 17 Portfolio Assignment
April 24	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK
May 1	Chapter 18 Portfolio Assignment
May 8	Chapter 19
May 15	Final Portfolio Due