Course Syllabus

Instructor: Benjamin Keele
Research and Instructional Services Librarian
Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law
Inlow Hall 131H
bkeele@indiana.edu
317.274.1929
Office Hours (video, voice, or in person): Mondays 10:00am-12:00pm, Thursdays 2:00pm-4:00pm, or by appointment (all times EST).

Course Objectives

Students will:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objective</th>
<th>MLS Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distinguish between primary and secondary legal materials</td>
<td>Use research effectively</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locate and use legal materials produced by U.S. federal and state governments, non-U.S. governments, and international organizations</td>
<td>Use research effectively</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Research assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify appropriate legal information resources for a given research task</td>
<td>Use research effectively</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Research assignments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assist and educate users
| Understand the institutional and economic context in which law libraries operate | Approach professional issues with understanding | 2 | Discussion forums |
| Practice fundamental tasks of law library public services | Use research effectively | 3 | Research assignments |
| | Assist and educate users | |
| Create and present a well-reasoned and supported paper on an issue in law librarianship | Use research effectively | 6 | Final paper and presentation |
| | Approach professional issues with understanding | |
| | Assist and educate users | |
| | Deploy information technologies in effective and innovative ways | |

**Assigned Readings**

There will be no required textbook for this course. Instead, students will access assigned readings through Canvas, resources licensed by IU, or the open web.

**Course Policies**

Students are expected to comply with all academic and campus regulations, accessible at [http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html](http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html) (Links to an external site.).
Course Structure

This course is taught online through Canvas. Generally, each week of the course will have three modules consisting of audiovisual and textual content. There will be discussion forum and I will offer online and in-person office hours.

Each class module roughly corresponds to a session of an in-person course. Each student will

1. Review any assigned reading materials.
2. Review any assigned lectures. These will mostly be audiovisual presentations, but some will only be audio, like a podcast.
3. Complete any tasks and answer any questions contained in the lectures.
4. Participate in assigned discussion forums.

Assignments

Students will develop and demonstrate their understanding of course materials through 1) answering in-lecture questions and participating in forum discussions (20% of course grade), 2) completing research assignments (20-40% of course grade), and completing a paper and presentation (40-60% of course grade).

Generally, two out of three modules each week will have some questions embedded in the presentation. These questions may relate to reading materials or the lecture and should be answered as you progress through the lecture. For two out of three of the modules each week will have a discussion forum in which you should substantively participate by responding to instructor prompts and peer student entries. From time to time, each student will be asked to propose some discussion topics for a module.

The research assignments will let you develop and demonstrate your understanding of locating and using legal research methods and tools. How many research assignments you are assigned will depend on which paper option you select.

The paper and presentation has two options.

The longer paper option will require a 15-30 page research paper on a topic of your choice (subject to instructor approval) and a 15-20 minutes presentation to the class. You will be assigned five research assignments (indicated on schedule by Research Assignment*). The research assignments will be 20% of your grade, while the paper and presentation will be 60% of your grade. This option is best suited for students wishing to engage in deeper study of a particular topic, seeking to prepare an article or presentation for publication or job talks.
The shorter paper option will require a 7-15 page research paper on a topic of your choice (subject to instructor approval), and a 10 minute presentation to the class. You will be assigned 8 research assignments (indicated on schedule by Research Assignment* and Research Assignment). The research assignments will be 40% of your grade, while the paper and presentation will be 40% of your grade. This option is best suited for students wishing to have structured practice with more research tools.

You must select a paper option by the beginning of the third week of class. You may write a longer paper than required by the shorter paper option, or complete more research assignments than required by the longer paper option, but that will not change instructor expectations or grade weightings.

**IU Grading Scale**

Student performance demonstrates full command of the course materials and evinces a high level of originality and/or creativity that far surpasses course expectations.

**A** -- Outstanding achievement. Student performance demonstrates full command of the course materials and evinces a high level of originality and/or creativity that far surpasses course expectations.

**A-** -- Excellent achievement. Student performance demonstrates thorough knowledge of the course materials and exceeds course expectations by completing all requirement in a superior manner.

**B+** -- Very good work. Student performance demonstrates above-average comprehension of the course materials and exceeds course expectations on all tasks as defined in the course syllabus.

**B** -- Good work. Student performance meets designated course expectations, demonstrates understanding of the course materials, and performs at an acceptable level.

**B-** -- Marginal work. Student performance demonstrates incomplete understanding of course materials.

**C+** -- Unsatisfactory work. Student performance demonstrates incomplete and inadequate understanding of course materials.

**C or below** -- Unacceptable work.
Schedule of Topics (subject to change with reasonable notice)

Week 1

1. Course scope, objectives, and expectations; values of law librarianship
2. Law libraries as institutions and careers in law librarianship

Week 2

1. Nature of law and types of law
2. Legal institutions and processes

Week 3

1. Basics of cases and litigation
2. How to find cases—citations

Week 4

1. Finding cases with full-text searching
2. Case digests and other tools
3. Research Assignment 1*

Week 5

1. Citators
2. Dockets and other court documents
3. Research Assignment 2

Week 6

1. Basics of statutes
2. Finding statutes, full-text searching, indexes, popular name tables, and tables of contents
3. Research Assignment 3*

Week 7

1. Legislative history
2. Proposed legislation
3. Basics of regulations
Week 8

1. Rulemaking
2. Finding regulations
3. Administrative and executive materials
4. Research Assignment 4*

Spring Break

Week 9

1. Treatises, books
2. Law journals, American Law Reports
3. Restatements of law, legal encyclopedias
4. Research Assignment 5*

Week 10

1. Legal citation
2. Specialized sources
3. Business information
4. Research Assignment 6

Week 11

1. Basics of international law and treaties
2. United Nations materials
3. European Union materials
4. Research Assignment 7

Week 12

1. Non-U.S. legal research
2. Collection development and licensing
3. Cataloging and technical services
4. Research Assignment 8

Week 13

1. Teaching
2. Government libraries
3. Private libraries
Week 14

1. Access services and ethics
2. Access to justice
3. Digitization and publishing

Week 15

1. Copyright
2. Topics outstanding or by student request

Finals week—student presentations