SYLLABUS

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 02/2013
CIP CODE: 22.0302
SEMESTER: Departmental Syllabus
COURSE TITLE: LEGAL RESEARCH II
COURSE NUMBER: PRLG-0231
CREDIT HOURS: 3
INSTRUCTOR: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE LOCATION: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE HOURS: Departmental Syllabus
TELEPHONE: Departmental Syllabus
EMAIL: KCKCC- “issued email accounts are the official means for electronically communicating with our students.”
PREREQUISITES: PRLG-121, Introduction to Law

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: Please check with the KCKCC bookstore, http://www.kckccbookstore.com/, for the required texts for your particular class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
A introduction to computerized online legal research. Projects will include in-depth practical application of research methods.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Introduction to computer hardware, software, and databases.
II. Orientation to basic principles of database searching and how, in general, the computer will respond to search instructions.

III. Boolean logic and Natural Language.

IV. Fine-tuning searches by using databases.

V. Developing facts and legal issues.

VI. Guidelines for formulating search requests.

VII. Modification and revision of search results.

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:

A. The student shall be able to identify major components of computer-assisted legal research system.

B. The student shall be able to demonstrate legal analysis in preparation for research.

C. The student shall be able to use the computer to find, read and update the law.

D. The student shall be able to demonstrate ability to blend books and computers into a comprehensive research strategy.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The student shall be able to identify major components of computer-assisted legal research system.

1. The student shall be able to explain which parts of computer are hardware and software.

2. The student shall be able to list and explain general principles of searching computer databases.

3. The student shall be able to explain types of language used to create search instructions.

4. The student shall be able to explain structure of documents in computer databases.

5. The student shall be able to conduct a search on the Internet to answer general questions.

6. The student shall be able to describe the procedures for setting up a meeting online.

7. The student shall be able to make maps using Internet sources.

8. The student shall be able to explain how to find people and businesses on the Internet.

The student shall be able to demonstrate legal analysis in preparation for research.

9. The student shall be able to list guidelines for narrowing fact and legal issues.

10. The student shall be able to formulate a plan for a computer search session.

11. The student shall be able to describe selection and arrangement of search terms.

12. The student shall be able to develop a checklist for a computer-assisted legal research session.

The student shall be able to use the computer to find, read and update the law.

13. The student shall be able to demonstrate ability to find legal material using at least 5 major search engines.

14. The student shall be able to create a table comparing & contrasting a legal search under all 5 engines.
15. The student shall be able to explain how to incorporate non-legal databases into computer-assisted legal research.

*The student shall be able to demonstrate ability to blend books and computers into a comprehensive research strategy.*

16. The student shall be able to demonstrate effective assessment of the role of computer in several hypothetical legal searches.
17. The student shall be able to develop and document a plan for proceeding the research using law library and computer.
18. The student shall be able to do research for the assigned legal problem, using the law library and the computer under legal and non-legal databases.
19. The student shall be able to explain how to find state and Federal codes on the Internet.
20. The student shall be able to explain the functions of the specialty courts on the Federal level.
21. The student shall be able to contrast filing methods of state and Federal courts.
22. The student shall be able to describe the procedures for finding state and Federal cases.
23. The student shall be able to answer questions related to legal issues by researching online.
24. The student shall be able to develop legal documents from information obtained on the Internet.

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNER OUTCOMES:**

Assessment methods will include the following:

- Practical research problems
- Quizzes
- Homework, attendance, and class participation.

**GRADING:**

The grade for the course is based on total points possible using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SPECIAL NOTES:**

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Material included is intended to provide an outline of the course and rules that the instructor will adhere to in evaluating the student’s progress. However, this syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. Questions regarding the syllabus are welcome any time.

Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to an appreciation of diversity with respect for the differences among the diverse groups comprising our students, faculty, and staff.
that is free of bigotry and discrimination. Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to providing a multicultural education and environment that reflects and respects diversity and that seeks to increase understanding.

Kansas City Kansas Community College offers equal educational opportunity to all students as well as serving as an equal opportunity employer for all personnel. Various laws, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, require the college’s policy on non-discrimination be administered without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, physical handicap, or veteran status and that such policy be made known.

*Kansas City Kansas Community College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact Director of Academic Resource Center, in Room 3354 or call (913) 288-7670.*
Learning Outcomes
Discipline knowledge and content mastery is expected of all graduates. More specifically, KCKCC is committed to the Learning Outcomes listed below. We believe that competence in the Learning Outcomes is essential for the success of graduates and will enhance their ability to become contributing members of our increasingly complex world. These areas of knowledge and skills are equally valid for all KCKCC graduates, whether they transfer to a four-year college or pursue a career after leaving college.

General Education Learning Outcomes
Communication Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to express, interpret, and modify ideas/information effectively (both written and oral), including but not limited to reading text accurately and correctly; writing with a clear purpose and effective organization; speaking effectively using appropriate styles that suit the message, purpose, and content; and employing active listening techniques.

Computation Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts and reasoning using numerical data.

Critical Reasoning Learning Outcomes
The learner will understand inductive and deductive reasoning and have the ability to define problems and use data (qualitative and quantitative) to make complex decisions utilizing analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills.

Technology and Information Management Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to define, collect, organize, analyze, and evaluate information from a variety of sources. The learner will also have the ability to understand basic technology concepts and functionality in order to use technology as a tool to locate and retrieve information.

Community and Civil Responsibility Learning Outcomes
The learner will demonstrate knowledge, awareness, and understanding of diverse ideas, values, and perspectives of a culturally diverse world; an understanding of the ethical issues and values that are prerequisites for making sound judgments and decisions; a recognition of the obligation to become actively involved as a contributing member of the community; and a sensitivity to the awareness of aesthetic expression.

Personal and Interpersonal Skills Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to work cooperatively and productively with others; to understand and evaluate his/her capabilities; to manage his/her personal growth by setting realistic and appropriate goals.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
STUDENT SUCCESS STRATEGIES

Know your teacher’s name.

Turn off your electronic devices in class/make paying attention to the work of the class your only concern.

Miss class only when you cannot attend/acquire missed information and materials ASAP.

Know your syllabus.

Know the attendance policy.

Know the requirements for tests and assignments.

Know information about final exam and make-up exams.

Know instructor’s position on use of Wikipedia or other online sources.

Know the instructor’s preferred writing style (APA, MLA, etc.).

Always know your grade.

Contact your teacher ASAP with concerns or questions.

Know the benefits of the academic resource center.

Know if your course has a practicum, service learning component, or other exception.

Use an academic planner.

Know the course withdrawal policy.

Know your instructor’s office hours and make appointments when necessary.

Know the school’s scholastic honesty policy.

Be familiar with the course learning objectives, course competencies, and the college’s 21st century learning outcomes for general education.