

**LEGAL PRACTICE SKILLS**  
**FALL 2009 SYLLABUS\***  
**Day Sections**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25**

Topics: Course overview;  
Discussion of cases for Closed Research Office  
Memorandum assignment

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 1, 2, & 3\*\*  
Read and prepare case briefs for Garcia v. San Antonio Hous. Auth., Landreth v. Reed, City of Austin v. Davis, and United Servs. Auto. Ass'n. v. Keith  
Recommended podcast: "Garcia read-aloud"

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 28**

Topic: Discussion of assigned cases and reading

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 5

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

Topic: Introduction to legal analysis and objective legal writing

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 6, pp. 127-128, & Appendix A  
Recommended podcasts: "Introduction to CREAC" and "Basics of analogical reasoning"

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

Topic: Identifying rules of law and explaining applicable precedent to the law-trained reader

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 7 & 8  
Recommended podcast: "Rule synthesis"

*\*subject to change*

*\*\*Unless specifically instructed by your professor or noted within this syllabus, you are not required to complete the exercises in the Edwards textbook.*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

Topic: Formulating and writing your analysis of the legal issue(s)

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 9 & 11  
Recommended podcasts: "R, E, and A of CREAC" and "Adding to the analysis"

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

Topic: Continued discussion of Closed Research Office Memorandum assignment

Prior to class: Recommended podcast: "Common problems on closed memos"

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

Topics: The importance of thorough editing;  
Introduction to the Bluebook;  
Proper use of citation  
(Please bring Bluebook to class with you.)

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 20 & 21  
Read Bluebook ("BB") Introduction & Bluepages (pp. 1-23)  
Recommended podcasts: "Introduction to citation" and "Editing"

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18\***

Topics: Q & A on Closed Research Office Memorandum assignment;  
Statutes research and citation  
(Please bring Bluebook to class with you.)

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 4  
Read Sloan ch. 1, 2, & 6  
Read BB Rule 12  
Recommended podcast: "Statutes"

*\*Extended class time for some LPS sections, according to research lab schedule.*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22\***

Topics: Statutes research and citation, cont.;  
Open Research Office Memorandum assignment  
distributed, discussed  
(following Sept. 22 class, begin work on Part #1 of  
research trail, due Oct. 2)

Work due: **Closed Research Office Memorandum**

**Friday, September 25**

Topic: Case research (reporters) and citation

Prior to class: Read Sloan pp. 77-83 & ch. 11  
Read BB Rule 10 & skim Rules 1, 4 – 9

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29\*\***

Topic: Case research (digests) and citation, cont.

Prior to class: Read Sloan ch. 4 (pp. 83-127)  
(following Sept. 29 class, begin working on Part #2 of  
research trail, due Oct. 9)  
Recommended podcast: "Reporters and digests"

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2**

Topics: Research, cont.;  
Review of Part #1 of research trail;  
Citation Review

Work due: **Part #1 of research trail**

*\*Extended class time for some LPS sections, according to research lab schedule.*

*\*\*In addition to your LPS classes this week, a one-hour research lab on reporters and digests will be held. Please refer to your professor's lab schedule for the date, time, and location of your lab.*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6**

Topic: Updating your research results (Shepard's and Keycite)

Prior to class: Read Sloan ch. 5  
(following Oct. 6 class, begin working on Part #3 of the research trail, due Oct. 16)  
Recommended podcast: "Citators"

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**

Topics: Secondary source research;  
Review Part #2 of research trail

Prior to class: Read Sloan ch. 3.

Work due: **Part #2 of research trail**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13**

No LPS class (Monday class schedule)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**

Topics: Citation;  
Graded take-home citation quiz distributed;  
Discussion of Open Research Office Memorandum assignment;  
Review of Part #3 of the research trail

Prior to class: TBA

Work due: **Part #3 of research trail**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20**

Topics: Continued discussion of Open Research Office Memorandum assignment;  
Research review

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23**

Topics: Q & A on Open Research Office Memorandum assignment;  
Review of graded take-home citation quiz

Work due: **Graded take-home citation quiz (not accepted late)**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27**

Topic: Writing the Brief Answer, Question Presented, and Facts sections of an office memorandum.

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 10 & 12  
Recommended podcast: "Question Presented and Brief Answer"

Work due: **Discussion section of Open Research Office Memorandum**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 & TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

No LPS class. During the next few weeks, you will be required to attend a one hour Westlaw or Lexis training session, which will be scheduled on a date TBD. In preparation for your training session, please read Sloan chapter 10.

**Friday, November 6**

Topic: In-class research quiz

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

Topic: Review of research quiz

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

Topics: Q & A on Question Presented, Brief Answer, and Facts sections of office memorandum;  
Editing

NOVEMBER 17 - 25: CONFERENCE PERIOD

Regular LPS class will not be held during the conference period. Please refer to the conference schedule for the date and time of your individual conference and listen to the podcast "Making the most of your conference."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

NO LPS CLASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Work due: Rewrite of Open Research Office Memorandum (all sections);  
Westlaw or Lexis assignment

**Assignment for first class of spring semester:**

Before your first LPS class of the spring semester, read the record for the spring memorandum assignment and be prepared to discuss it during class.

The research trail for the spring memorandum assignment will be due at the beginning of the second class of the semester.