

LEGAL PRACTICE SKILLS
FALL 2009 SYLLABUS*
Evening Sections

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

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

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 1, 2, 3, & 5**
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, SEPTEMBER 4

Topics: Introduction to legal analysis and objective legal writing;
Identifying rules of law and explaining applicable precedent to the law-trained reader

Prior to class: Read Edwards ch. 6, 7, & 8; pp. 127-128; Appendix A
Recommended podcasts: "Introduction to CREAC," "Rule synthesis," and "Basics of analogical reasoning"

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Topics: Formulating and writing your analysis of the legal issue(s)
Continued discussion of Closed Research Office
Memorandum assignment.

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

*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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Topics: The importance of thorough editing;
Introduction to the Bluebook and proper use of citation;
Q & A on Closed Research Office Memorandum
assignment;
(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: "Common problems on closed
memos," "Introduction to citation," and "Editing"

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Topics: Statutes research and citation;
Open Research Office Memorandum assignment
distributed, discussed
(following Sept. 25 class, begin work on Part #1 of
research trail, due Oct. 2)

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

Monday, September 28

Work due: **Closed Research Office Memorandum**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Topics: Case research (reporters and digests) and citation;
Review of Part #1 of research trail.

Prior to class: Read Sloan ch. 4 & 11
Read BB Rule 10; skim BB Rules 1, 4-9
Recommended podcast: "Reporters and Digests"

Work due: **Part #1 of research trail**
(following Oct. 2 class, begin working on Part #2 of research trail, due Oct. 9)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Topics: Updating your research results (Shepard's and Keycite);
Secondary source research
Review Part #2 of research trail

Prior to class: Read Sloan ch. 3 & 5
(following Oct. 9 class, begin working on Part #3 of the research trail, due Oct. 16)
Recommended podcast: "Citators"

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

Prior to class: TBA

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

Topics: Q & A on Open Research Office Memorandum assignment;
Research review;
Review take-home citation exercise

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

NO LPS CLASS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Work due: Discussion section of Open Research Office Memorandum.

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

Topics: In-class graded research exercise;
Writing the Question Presented, Brief Answer, and Facts sections of an office memorandum

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

Friday, November 13

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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

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.