

Legal Research  
Fall 2018  
Fridays 9:55 or 11:20

Professor: Jane Woldow  
Office: VLS Cornell Library  
Email: [jwoldow@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:jwoldow@vermontlaw.edu)

**Course Objective:** This course introduces students to the foundational resources and strategies used to conduct effective and efficient legal research. The course emphasizes the mechanics of each research tool as well as its role in the legal research process.

**Course Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify common legal research publications and their role in the legal research process.
- Utilize established legal research access points.
- Demonstrate efficient, thorough, and deliberate research processes.
- Prepare professional quality documents conveying their work.
- Apply course content to legal hypotheticals.

**Grading:** Letter grades are based on the final project (75%) and class activities (25%). Class activities include class attendance, memos, and review exercises. All materials submitted for the course must be typed.

**Optional Texts:** available from the reserve collection at the VLS library

Sloan, Amy E. *Basic Legal Research: Tools and Strategies*. 7th Edition.  
Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, 2018.

*The Bluebook : a uniform system of citation*. 20<sup>th</sup> Edition. Cambridge, Mass: Published and distributed by the Harvard Law Review Association, 2015.

**Class Website:** <http://lawschool.westlaw.com>

-select TWEN

-select Legal Research (fall 2018) Woldow

**Teaching Assistant:**

Marisa Heiling

[MarisaHeiling@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:MarisaHeiling@vermontlaw.edu)

Our sections' teaching assistant is available by appointment. Course teaching assistants, including our sections' teaching assistant, are available at select times in the library.

For weekly take home memo guidance, use the teaching assistants. If you need more help, after working with a teaching assistant, contact the professor.

## Assignments

<i>Before this class...</i>		<i>After this class....</i>
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 1 & Attend a Lexis training session <b>Optional Reading:</b> Sloan chapter 1, chapter 2, chapter 3	<b>Class 1: Introduction to Legal Authority &amp; the Legal Research Process</b> Friday 8/31	
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 2 <b>Optional Reading:</b> Sloan chapter 4	<b>Class 2: Secondary Sources Part 1</b> Friday 9/7	Attend a Westlaw training session & Submit memo #1-Due 4pm Thurs. 9/13
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 3	<b>Class 3: Secondary Sources Part 2</b> Friday 9/14	Submit memo #2 –Due 4pm Tues. 9/18
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 4 <b>Optional Reading:</b> Sloan chapter 5	<b>Class 4: State and Federal Cases</b> Friday 9/21	Submit memo #3 & Submit Review memo– Both Due 4pm Tues. 9/25
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 5 <b>Optional Reading:</b> Sloan chapter 6	<b>Class 5: Citators</b> Friday 9/28	Submit memo #4 – Due 4pm Tues 10/2
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 6 <b>Optional Reading:</b> Sloan chapter 7	<b>Class 6: State and Federal Statutes</b> Friday 10/5	Submit memo #5 – Due 4pm <b>Tues. 10/16</b> <i>(extra time because of Fall Break)</i>
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 7 <b>Optional Reading:</b> Sloan chapter 9	<b>Class 7: Administrative Regulations</b> Friday 10/12	Submit memo #6 – Due 4pm Tues. 10/16
<b>Required Reading:</b> Review worksheets #1-6 & sample answers	<b>Class 8: Research Workshop Day</b> Friday 10/19	
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 9	<b>Class 9: Litigation &amp; Legal Practice Resources</b> Friday 10/26	
<b>Required Reading:</b> Readings class 10 <b>Optional Reading:</b> Sloan chapter 10, 11 & Appendix A	<b>Class 10: Free Internet Resources &amp; Review</b> Friday 11/2	Submit final assignment - Due 4pm <b>Mon. 11/12</b>