Readings and Activities for the First Week (May 31-June 3)

Dear students,

Welcome to Vermont Law School! We will have a busy first week in Legal Research and Writing. First, we will meet at 9:00-10:00 am on Wednesday, June 1, in the Nina Thomas Classroom, for a Westlaw training session.

Then, at 10:15 (just before the start of our first class), Hugh McNally will offer a quick tutorial on Canvas. You will access documents for class discussion and upload your assignments on Canvas; you can use your VLS Email and password to log into the site. Here is a direct link to the class page for you to bookmark.

At 10:30, we have our first class.

On Friday, June 3, we have a make-up class at 9:00-10:15 am for the class we missed on Memorial Day. Our regularly scheduled class then meets at 10:30 am. See what I mean about a busy first week!

Here is the full schedule for the first week:

Wednesday, June 1

9:00-10:00 am: Westlaw training (Nina Thomas Classroom)

10:15-10:30 am: Canvas training (Nina Thomas Classroom)

10:30 am: First Class—An introduction to American legal systems

A Lawyer Writes, 15-22 (Sources of Law) (through “Weave a Tapestry”)  
Legal Research, 1-5 (Introduction: Context and Framework)  
Constitution of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (on Canvas)  
The Bluebook, review ix-xvi (Table of Contents), read 1-4 (Introduction and Rule B1.1) and Rules B11 and 11

Assignments:

1. In a paragraph of 100-150 words, compare/contrast the Preambles of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.  
Due on Sunday, June 5, by 11:59 pm (upload to Canvas)
2. Install (free to you) Microsoft Office 365 from VLS’s IT website if you do not already have it.

**Friday, June 3 (make-up class at 9:00 am)**

Hierarchies of authority; an introduction to *stare decisis*; legal research process  
*A Lawyer Writes*, 22-31 (Systems of law)  
*Legal Research*, 9-30 (Legal research process & one good document method)  
*Legal Research Process Chart* (on Canvas)  
*The Bluebook*, Rules B2, B10.1.1, 10.2, and Table 6 (Case names in citations)

**Friday, June 3 (regular class at 10:30 am)**

Reading and researching statutes  
*A Lawyer Writes*, 33-43 (Reading statutes)  
*Legal Research*, 99-113, 121-34 (Statutes)  
United States Constitution, Art. VI, cl. 2 (Supremacy Clause)  
*A Third Way*, 7-21 (on Course Reserve)  
*The Bluebook*, Rules B.12.1.1, 12.1-12.3.2 (Citing statutes)