

# PAR 204

## Legal Research

### INSTRUCTOR

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### TEXT REQUIRED:

Contact the ECC Bookstore at 847-214-7395; [eccbookstore@elgin.edu](mailto:eccbookstore@elgin.edu)

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Students will be introduced to researching the law in Illinois and the United States.
- Students should understand the various authorities to research.
- Students will be able to find and identify controlling cases or statutes, which they can rely on in writing a memorandum of law in the workplace.
- Students will learn how to research online using the WESTLAW and LEXIS databases, as well as using hard copy volumes in the ECC Library.
- Students will have an appreciation for the development of a research strategy for a particular research project and will understand what law governs in a given situation.

### II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. Students are accountable for the assigned reading.
2. Two examinations will be given. Each exam is worth 100 points.
3. Active participation through discussions on D2L is essential if students are to receive maximum benefit from the class.

### III. GRADING STRUCTURE

There will be two objective exams. I also reserve the right to ask short essay questions on each exam. You will also be responsible for homework assignments in each of the five units we will be covering. The due dates for the homework assignments are found in the class schedule in this syllabus. Your final grade will be made up of the following:

- Midterm exam (100 points)
- Final exam (100 points)
- Homework assignments for each unit (various point values assigned)

**You must take the midterm exam in the testing center on campus.**

You do not have to take the final exam on campus.

**Semester-long Assignment - Time-Keeping:** While you are taking this class, you must track your time on tasks and report it as you would do in a law firm that bills for your time.

**DISCUSSIONS AND DROPBOX.** Points will be awarded ONLY if the discussion appears in both spots.

**YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN WESTLAW TRAINING. You must complete all four programs and obtain a certificate for each.**

#### **IV. HONOR CODE**

You are on the Honor Code in my class. As a student enrolled in this class, you are giving your word that you will not cheat or plagiarize. You are not to work in groups under any circumstances unless you are instructed that it is permissible on an assignment. **If you are caught violating the Honor Code, you will be removed from my class with a failing grade.**