

LEX 180
CASE ANALYSIS AND REASONING

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: LEX 120

This course covers the techniques of reading and applying legal opinions and the skills of case analysis. Emphasis is on the components of opinions and on types of legal writing. Upon completion, students should be able to read, analyze, and brief opinions as well as prepare legal memoranda, briefs, and other legal documents. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 1. Lab, 2. Semester Hours Credit, 2.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- a. Identify the various components of legal opinions.
- b. Identify the necessary components of briefs of opinions.
- c. Apply court opinions to the client's case through fact and rule
- d. Communicate application of court opinions in written legal documents.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Analyzing cases
 - A. Briefing a case
 - 1) Identifying the parties
 - 2) Identifying their objectives and theories
 - 3) Identifying the history of the litigation
 - 4) Identifying key facts
 - 5) Identifying issues and holdings
 - 6) Identifying the reasoning of the court
 - 7) Identifying the disposition
 - 8) Identifying dictum
- II. Applying court opinions
 - A. Types of comparison
 - 1) Fact comparison
 - (a.) Fact similarities
 - (b.) Fact differences
 - (c.) Factual gaps
 - 2) Rule-of-law comparison
 - B. Inclusion of analysis in written documents
 - 1) Memoranda
 - 2) Briefs
 - 3) Correspondence

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

To be determined

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.