SYLLABUS
LIS 608 LEGAL SOURCES AND SERVICES
Long Island University - Manhattan Campus
Palmer School of Library and Information Science
Summer, 2011

Instructors:
Jay A. Shuman
Associate Director
Research & Online Services
212-998-6310
jay.shuman@nyu.edu

Annmarie Zell
Reference Librarian
NYU Law Library
212-992-8863
annmarie.zell@nyu.edu

SCHEDULE
LIS 608 is a three-credit class. The class will meet every Monday & Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 8:10 pm, beginning on May 16, 2011 and ending on June 15, 2011. (No class on May 30, 2011, Memorial Day). As described below, grading will be based on weekly assignments, and a final take home research assignment.

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION
LIS 608 provides an overview of the tools and techniques of legal research. Students are introduced to the structure and processes of the three major components of the legal system in the United States: legislative, judicial and administrative. Traditional print as well as online sources will be covered.

PREREQUISITE: LIS 511
This course is not intended to cover the basics of database, or Internet searching (except for WESTLAW and LEXIS), government information sources, or any other fields covered by other Palmer School courses. See also TECHNOLOGY below.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
LIS 608 will advance students' abilities to meet each of the general objectives of the Palmer School program for the Master of Science in Library Science as set forth in the Graduate Bulletin. In addition, the specific objectives of this course are:

1. To understand the basic structure, processes, concepts, terminology, and publication systems of the legislative, judicial and administrative components of the United States legal system;

2. To achieve proficiency in selecting and using the major sources and tools required for researching legislative, judicial and administrative materials;

3. To achieve basic proficiency in selecting and using the major types of sources and tools for research in specialized areas of the law; and

4. To achieve basic proficiency in using WESTLAW, LEXIS, and the Internet for legal research.

DIVERSITY AND MULTI-CULTURAL ISSUES
The study of the law and legal literature provides a rich ground for examination of issues of diversity and multi-culturalism in our legal system and in our society. In particular, many of the issues facing the profession, such as who owns the content of the law, public access to information, and collection development and reference service in the age of global legal transactions and global legal studies, should stimulate discussion among students.
RESEARCH IN LAW AND RELATED FIELDS

Required readings will be drawn from the wealth of excellent texts and periodical literature in law librarianship and related social science fields.

REQUIRED TEXT

Olson, Kent C. *Principles of Legal Research* (2009).

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Students will have access to the collections of the NYU Law Library. A Visitor’s Pass will be issued to all students enrolled in the course.

In addition to the computer access that students have through the LIU program, students will have access to work stations in the NYU Law Library for connections to WESTLAW, LEXIS and the Internet, with the following guidelines:

1. Students are expected to obtain full LIUNET accounts, which give them access to e-mail and internet.
2. At the appropriate time, students will receive passwords for WESTLAW and LEXIS.
3. Access to workstations in the NYU Law Library is on a first-come first-served basis.

TECHNOLOGY

Students will be trained in and expected to achieve basic proficiency in using WESTLAW, LEXIS and the Internet, for legal research and will be expected to use them in completing certain homework assignments.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

1. Weekly Assignments: 75% of final grade (Total of 8 assignments)
   --approximately 3-5 hours per week
   --most require on-site work at NYU Law Library
   --due at beginning of next class
   --one half-grade penalty for late assignments.

   If you are absent—even for an excused absence—to avoid a deduction in your grade, email or fax your homework to the professor by the start of class.

2. Final Research Problem: 25% of final grade

   Students will be given a hypothetical fact pattern and will be expected to conduct legal research to resolve issues presented in the fact pattern.

   The time required to complete the assignments will meet the New York State Education Department of 120 hours per student of work outside the classroom.

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TOPICAL OUTLINE AND CALENDAR
May 16  [Shuman]  
Introduction to Legal Research & the American Legal System  
Readings:  
Olson, Chap. 1 & 6  
Assignment 1: Introduction to Legal Research distributed (due date: 5/18)

May 18  [Shuman]  
Assignment #1 due  
Introduction to Case Law & Finding Cases  
Readings:  
Olson, Chaps. 7 & 8  
Assignment 2: Introduction to Case Law & Finding Cases distributed (due date: 5/23)

May 23  [Zell]  
Assignment #2 due  
Assignment #2 due  
Online Case Finding & Citators  
Readings:  
Review Olson, Chap. 8, sec. 5  
Assignment 3: Online Case Finding & Citators distributed (due date: 5/25)

May 25  [Shuman]  
Assignment #3 due  
Assignment #3 due  
Assignment #3 due  
Statutes & Constitutions  
Readings:  
Olson, Chaps. 2 & 3  
Assignment 4, Statutes distributed (due date: 6/1)

May 30  NO CLASS/MEMORIAL DAY  

June 1  [Zell]  
Assignment #4 due  
Assignment #4 due  
WESTLAW Training  
Review Olson, Chap. 1, sec. 3; Chap. 3, sec. 2; Chap. 8, sec. 1  
Assignment 5, Online Research, Part I distributed (due date: 6/6)

June 6  [Zell]  
Assignment #5 due  
Assignment #5 due  
LEXIS Training  
Review Olson, Chap. 1, sec. 3; Chap. 3, sec. 2; Chap. 8, sec. 1  
Assignment 6: Online Research, Part II distributed (due date: 6/8)

June 8  [Zell]  
Assignment #6 due  
Assignment #6 due  
Legislative History  
Readings:  
Olson, Chap. 4  
Assignment 7: Legislative History distributed (due date: 6/13)

June 13  [Zell]  
Assignment #7 due  
Assignment #7 due  
Assignment #7 due  
Administrative Law  
Readings:  
Olson, Chap. 5  
Assignment 8: Administrative Law distributed (due date: 6/15)

June 15  [Shuman]  
Assignment #8 due  
Assignment #8 due  
New York Legal Research  
Readings:  
Review Olson, Chap. 2, sec. 2; Chap. 3, sec. 5; Chap. 7, sec. 3  
Final Research Problem distributed (Due: 6/17/11)