

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **GOVT 346**

#### **LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An overview for the pre-law student of legal research methods and legal writing. Attention will be given to online and traditional avenues of legal research, as well as standard formats for case briefs, citations, formal legal memoranda, legal analysis, case synthesis, and statutory interpretation. The course requires a major legal research paper.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course provides an introductory overview of legal research methods and legal writing. It builds the foundational skills that students will need as they learn to conduct legal research and write case briefs, legal citations, and legal memoranda.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- A. Apply the law to a specific set of facts.
- B. Synthesize judicial opinions and statutes to determine the law.
- C. Employ the Bluebook citation style.
- D. Demonstrate research skills using both physical libraries and online resources.

#### **V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 300–500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to the threads of at least 2 classmates. Each reply must be 150–200 words, provide constructive thoughts, and move the conversation forward. Each thread and reply must include the required citations noted for each forum.

D. Interactive Citation Workbook Exercises (5)

These exercises accompany the assigned readings in the *Interactive Citation Workbook* textbook. To complete each exercise, the student must read the assigned chapter and the related Bluebook rules, then answer the first 10 questions that appear at the end of each chapter by typing the answers into a Microsoft Word document. These exercises will require close attention to punctuation, spacing, abbreviations, and font style.

E. Case Brief

The student will complete a 1–2-page Case Brief based upon the assigned judicial opinion, which will be provided in the Assignment Instructions folder in Blackboard. The brief must be written in current Bluebook format.

F. Client Matter Project (CMP)

The student will represent a fictitious client by preparing the following assignments:

Legal Memorandum – Question Presented and Facts

The student will draft both the Question Presented and Facts sections for the Legal Memorandum in current Bluebook format. All the research needed for this assignment will be provided in the Assignment Instructions folder. The assignment must be no more than 1 page, must cite the Senior Attorney Memorandum provided, and must not incorporate outside research.

Legal Memorandum – Final

The student will write a 4–6-page Legal Memorandum – Final in current Bluebook format. All the research needed for this assignment will be provided in the Assignment Instructions folder. The student must cite both the statute and judicial opinion, and must not incorporate outside research for this assignment.

Persuasive Brief to Court – Outline and Case/Statute List

The student will prepare a Persuasive Brief to Court – Outline and Case/Statute List in current Bluebook format. The outline will provide the major points and sub-points within the Persuasive Brief. The Case/Statute list will include the

case(s) and statute(s) the student will use to support his/her position in the Persuasive Brief to Court. The student will do legal research for this assignment. The student must include at least 3 cases and 1 statute in the Case and Statute List, including the case and statute provided.

#### Persuasive Brief to Court – Final

The student will write a 6–8-page Persuasive Brief to Court – Final. The brief must be written in current Bluebook format and must follow the template provided in the Assignment Instructions folder. The student will conduct legal research for this assignment. The student must cite at least 3 cases and 1 statute in the Persuasive Brief to the Court.

#### G. Core Grammar Exercises

Exercises will provide the student with an opportunity to practice grammar and punctuation skills that are prerequisites to successful legal writing. The student will submit both a Pre-Test and a Post-Test using Core Grammar for Lawyers. After completing the Pre-Test and Post-Test, the student will submit his or results by submitting a screenshot of them or by scanning and uploading the printed versions.

#### H. Legal Analysis Quiz

The student will complete a quiz about legal analysis principles and format. The quiz will cover the Reading & Study material from Module/Week 4. The quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 7 multiple-choice and 3 true/false questions, and have a time limit of 30 minutes.

### VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

#### A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums	(3 at 70 pts ea)	210
Interactive Citation Workbook Exercises	(5 at 30 pts ea)	150
Case Brief		80
Client Matter Project		
Legal Memorandum – Question Presented and Facts		75
Legal Memorandum – Final		150
Persuasive Brief to Court – Outline and Case/Statute List		80
Persuasive Brief to Court – Final		175
Core Grammar Exercises (Pre- & Post-Test)	(2 at 30 pts ea)	60
Legal Analysis Quiz		20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

#### B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **GOVT 346**

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Norton et al.: ch. 1 Slocum: chs. 1–2 4 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	70
		ICW Exercise: Chapter 1	30
<b>2</b>	Norton et al.: ch. 2 Slocum: chs. 3–6 1 presentation	ICW Exercise: Chapter 2	30
		Case Brief	80
		Core Grammar Exercises Pre-Test	30
<b>3</b>	Norton et al.: ch. 3 Slocum: chs. 7–12 2 presentations	ICW Exercise: Chapter 3	30
		CMP: Legal Memorandum – Question Presented and Facts	75
<b>4</b>	Slocum: chs. 13–17 3 presentations	DB Forum 2	70
		Legal Analysis Quiz	20
<b>5</b>	Norton et al.: ch. 5 Slocum: chs. 22–23 2 presentations	ICW Exercise: Chapter 5	30
		CMP: Legal Memorandum – Final	150
<b>6</b>	Slocum: chs. 24–25 2 presentations	CMP: Persuasive Brief to Court – Outline and Case/Statute List	80
<b>7</b>	Norton et al.: ch. 7 Slocum: chs. 26, 28 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	70
		ICW Exercise: Chapter 7	30
		Core Grammar Exercises Post-Test	30
<b>8</b>	Slocum: chs. 30–31 1 presentation	CMP: Persuasive Brief to Court – Final	175
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

ICW = Interactive Citation Workbook

CMP = Client Matter Project

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.