

SYLLABUS  
PART I  
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
LEG 130S LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING  
3 CREDIT HOURS

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In-depth approach to using primary and secondary sources of the law. Parallel assignments will be given involving federal and state material. Research skills will be developed using both books and electronic databases. Internet skills are recommended. Prerequisite: LEG 110S and ENG 121S. Lab fee.

**COURSE GOALS**

The student will:

Bloom's Level		Program Outcomes
3	1. Collect data from electronic sources and legal publications.	2
2	2. Differentiate information from appropriate primary and secondary authorities.	2
2	3. Distinguish between official and unofficial sources.	2
3	4. Apply rules of citations for legal sources and publications according to the Ohio Supreme Court's Writing Manual.	2
5	5. Validate authority located.	2
5	6. Analyze and evaluate the relevancy of data found.	4
4	7. Prepare legal memoranda.	3, 4, 7
2A	8. Participate collaboratively and independently when appropriate.	3

*An "A" indicates the Affective Domain.*

**CORE VALUES**

The Core Values are a set of principles which guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**

1. Legal Principles and Authorities
  - a. Types of authority,
  - b. Hierarchy of law and
  - c. Relationship between legal authority constitutions, statutes, regulations, case law, civil procedure, court rules, and individual behavior.
2. Legal Research and Analysis
  - a. The process
  - b. Introduction of the IRAC method
  - c. Ethical considerations
3. Constitutional Principles
  - a. Federalism
  - b. Separation of powers
  - c. State and federal constitutions
4. Statutes, Administrative law, Court Rules
  - a. Research process
  - b. Cannons of construction
  - c. Statutory analysis

5. Case Law
  - a. Locating a case
  - b. Reading a case
  - c. Briefing a case
  - d. Updating a case
  - e. Component parts of a case brief
  - f. Types of briefs (book, marginalia, formal, etc.)
  - g. Usefulness of case briefs
6. Secondary Authority
  - a. Where to start?
  - b. Legal encyclopedias
  - c. Treatises
  - d. Digests
  - e. Dictionaries
  - f. Restatements
  - g. Periodicals
  - h. American Law Reports
  - i. Shepards
7. Computer Aided Legal Research
  - a. Impact on the legal profession
  - b. Major databases
  - c. Practice management programs
  - d. Free services
  - e. Relevance of paper research
8. Legal Citation
  - a. Types of citation (ALWD, Bluebook, and others)
  - b. Importance of citation
  - c. Ethical duties to sources, courts and attorneys
  - d. General rules
9. The Legal Memorandum
  - a. Distinguished from a brief
  - b. Component parts (QP, BA, issue statement formulae)
  - c. Rule synthesis
  - d. Legally relevant facts
  - e. Issue identification
  - f. Issue statements
  - g. Case analysis (precedent, on-point, on all fours)
  - h. Counteranalysis (why, when, where) and techniques
10. Basics of Good Writing
  - a. Grammar review
  - b. Mechanics and style
  - c. Dialect and business grammar
  - d. Usefulness of common speech and writing rules
  - e. Peculiarities of “legalese”
  - f. Trends towards simplicity
  - g. Transitions
  - h. Topic sentences
  - i. Sign posts
  - j. Small-scale organization

11. The Writing Process
  - a. Prewriting
  - b. Organizational strategies
  - c. Outline creation
  - d. Revision and editing