

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: PL 221: Advanced Legal Research and Writing

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: PL 104, EN 101

Description: This course is a continuation of Introduction to Legal Research and Writing, involving advanced legal research techniques. Emphasis will be placed on writing to the courts including trial court motions with briefs, and appellate briefs. Use computerized legal research including the Internet will support the manual research conducted throughout the course.

### Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify a legal issue and conduct manual and computerized legal research
- Utilize specialty computer research databases
- Locate the Rules of the Court applicable to filing a motion
- Draft all papers necessary for filing a motion with brief
- Prepare a Table of Contents and Table of Authorities to accompany an appellate brief

### Topical Outline

- Review of Research and Writing Skills
- The Client Opinion Letter: Purpose and Format
- Ethical consideration of Insurance Defense Communications
- Computer-Assisted Legal Research
- Specialized Research Through the Computer Data Banks
- Lexis and Westlaw Specialty Data Banks: Shortcuts to Research
- Internet Research-Overview
- Finding Case law
- Finding Forms
- Judicial and Legislative Sites
- Out of Jurisdiction Cases
- The Rules of Practice and Procedure and Their Application to Paper Filed with the Court
- State and Federal Rules for Filings
- Motion Paper Preparations – NJ
- Summary Judgment
- Affidavits and Certifications
- Proposed Form of Order
- The Motion for Summary Judgment

- NJ Rules on Substantive Motions
- The Structure of the Brief
- Point of Argument
- Motions Made as to all or Some Parties
- Drafting the Brief in Support of a Motion
- Drafting the Motion Papers
- Preparing the Title page, Table of Contents, and Table of Authorities in an Appellate Brief

Text: Bast, Carol M., Hawkins, Margie (2013). *Foundations of Legal Research & Writing* (55<sup>th</sup> ed.). Delmar.

The New Jersey Rules of the Court

Harvard Bluebook of Citation

Student Assessment: Assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Note: If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

### Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.