

Spokane Community College

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO) AND OUTLINE

Course Title: Legal Research & Writing

Prefix and Course Number: LA 110

Version Date:3/22/21

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Explain a basic understanding of the federal and state law, the vertical structure and hierarchy of the court systems in both the federal and state governments, and the relationships of the courts to each other.
2. Identify the difference between primary and secondary authority.
3. Demonstrate the ability to complete legal research using electronic research databases and be familiar with how to perform legal research in books.
4. Analyze case law, statutes, and administrative materials.
5. Create logical and organized common legal documents, including but not limited to: case briefs, memoranda that provide objective evaluation of legal issues, memoranda that provide persuasive evaluation of legal issues, and written communications to the client.

Course Outline

1. Structure of the American legal system and how it relates to legal research
2. Binding authority verses persuasive authority
3. Legal research using electronic research databases
4. Legal research using books
5. How to analyze different types of law
6. Basic structure for legal writing in a variety of legal documents
7. Ethical considerations in legal research