

Law 6798 – Advanced Legal Research (Florida)

Spring 2025 Syllabus

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Class Schedule

Thursdays 10:00 am – 11:45 am
[Jan 16th 2024 to Feb 27th]
Holland Hall 285B

Office Hours:

Mondays 11am-12pm
Tuesdays 1pm-2pm
Holland Hall 175D

Course Readings

There is no textbook required for this course. Assigned readings will be posted to Canvas.

Course Canvas Page

All materials are accessible on Canvas at <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/524381>. Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have any required materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the e-mail connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.

Course Description

This one-credit course focuses on research resources and skills used in Florida practice. Building on the foundational skills learned in the first-year legal research class, students will engage in a deeper exploration of state-specific sources, legal databases, and research strategies tailored to Florida's statutes, case law, administrative codes, and local rules. This course meets for 7 classes in the first 7-weeks of the semester.

Grading Criteria

The components of the final grade for the course are listed below:

- Homework Assignments (6): 30%
- Final Exam: 60%
- Participation: 5%
- Attendance: 5%

1. Homework Assignments

There will be six homework assignments during the semester. Each week after class a homework assignment will be posted on the course Canvas page (under the "Assignments" tab). The due date for each assignment is 11:59 p.m. on the next Monday. Full credit for assignments will be given to those who demonstrate a good faith effort. A good faith effort includes fully responding to all questions and turning in assignments on time. cursory responses to questions that ask for an explanation will be penalized. A late submission, without prior consent from instructor, will be penalized at least 25% for lateness if submitted

by 10:00 am (Eastern) on the Thursday of the week it is due. A late assignment that is submitted after 10:00 am (Eastern) Thursday on the week it is due will receive no credit. Completion of the 6 homework assignments is worth 30% of the final grade. Students must work individually on homework assignments.

2. Final Exam

The final exam is an 8-hour, timed, take-home exam, to be completed between **February 28th and March 9, 2025**. It will include short answer and essay questions that will test your ability to apply the skills you will have learned during this course. This exam will comprise 60% of the course grade. The final exam will be graded anonymously. The law school policy on exam delays and accommodations may be found [here](#).

3. Participation

The participation grade is determined by preparation for class, participation in class, and overall effort to complete the weekly assignments, including contacting the instructor when encountering difficulties with the assignment. Repeated lack of preparedness or participation will impact your participation grade. Repeated class disruption (e.g., excessive noise, texting, personal internet use) will impact your participation grade.

4. Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are responsible for ensuring they are not recorded as absent if they come in late.

Per law school policy, this course will be graded on a curve. Points received for assignments during the semester represent raw scores only. College of Law grading policies for grade distribution for required courses and GPA determination can be found at <https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies#academic-policies>.

Letter Grade	Point Equivalent
A	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.0
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.0
D-	0.67
E	0.0

ABA Out-of-Class Hours Requirements

ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote at least 42.5 hours of total in-class instruction and out-of-class student work is required per credit. Students should expect to spend at least 30 hours of

preparation outside of class including reading the assigned materials and completing assignments. Time devoted to studying for a required final examination may count toward the out-of-class time required.

Generative AI

The use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Claude, and CoPilot, is permitted in the course as a supplementary aid for legal research and writing. These tools are not required and are not an appropriate substitute for developing and demonstrating your legal research and analysis skills. For every written assignment submitted for credit that you use generative AI for, you must describe the specific tool(s) used and briefly explain what you used it for (i.e. generating ideas, summarizing materials, proofreading, etc.) Regardless of AI use, all work submitted must reflect your own original thought, demonstrate your understanding of the material, and be thoroughly fact-checked against reliable sources. Failure to disclose the use of generative AI or misrepresenting the role it played in your work may be considered a breach of academic integrity.

Compliance with UF Honor Code

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Honor Code, which can be found here: [UF-Regulation-4.040.pdf \(ufl.edu\)](#); and the supplemental policy applicable to UF Law, which can be found here: [Law School Honor System](#). The UF Law Honor Code also prohibits use of artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to, ChatGPT and Harvey, to assist in completing quizzes, exams, papers, or other assessments unless expressly authorized by the professor to do so.

Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor and Student Conduct Code.

Student Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Click [here](#) for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and may complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](#).

UF Levin College of Law Standard Syllabus Policies

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including grading and accommodations, can be found at <https://www.law.ufl.edu/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies>.

Getting Assistance

For technical difficulties with E-Learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at helpdesk@ufl.edu, (352) 392 HELP, or <http://elearning.ufl.edu> using the Message Us link in the header.

Course Schedule of Topics

This syllabus represents the current plans and objectives for the course. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the classroom learning opportunity.

January 16th, 2025	Intro and Florida Constitutional Law
January 23rd, 2025	Florida Statutes
January 30th, 2025	Florida Legislative History
February 6th, 2025	Florida Case Law & AG/Ethics Opinions
February 13th, 2025	Florida Sunshine Law and Admin Law
February 20th, 2025	Local Law & Counties
February 27th, 2025	Forms & Review

Learning Objectives:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Examine the primary sources of Florida law, including the Florida Constitution and statutes, and evaluate different historical versions.
2. Understand the Florida legislative process and evaluate materials created during the process.
3. Explain how the Florida Sunshine Law affects Florida administrative law making.
4. Identify and describe the various steps of the Florida rulemaking process and locate the materials generated at each step to support legal research.
5. Understand the structure that governs Florida local and county law and locate the primary law from a given jurisdiction.
6. Identify the most effective form to use for a given research task on Florida Law considering factors such as jurisdiction and legal context.