LEGAL RESEARCH: PREPARATION AND STUDY EXPECTATIONS

Preparation

Strong reading skills and clear communication in writing are essential to succeed in this course. Much of the law depends on the ability to clearly read, write, and understand what is in your textbook, discussed by your instructor and explained by your colleagues.

This course assumes that you have appropriate reading comprehension and writing skills for college work at the sophomore/junior level. This includes the ability to comprehend the material that has been read and apply the material to fact situations.

In addition, to succeed in this course, you must invest time and effort in carefully reading the text and online readings prior to online discussions. You may need to read sections of the text more than once. To succeed in this class, you should

- That means reading carefully in advance of the time you take the quizzes and exams.
- For the discussion assignments
  - Locate your group to participate in discussions (if you are not in a group, i.e. no group is identified or underlined, please e-mail me (idaj@csufresno.edu) immediately)
  - Respond to comments only after you’ve read other students’ comments (otherwise, you are just repeating what another student said and are not adding value)
  - Start a new thread if no other comments have been posted about the topic you want to discuss
  - Return at least a couple of times to finish up the discussion/answer the questions
- Complete all reflections in a timely manner.

Study expectations

I suggest that you set aside specific times each week to study for this class. In addition to the online readings you should expect to spend a significant amount of time reading and posting in the discussion board. For most courses, it’s expected that you spend two hours of outside the class time for every hour in class. However, since this is an online class and there is no regular on-ground time, I estimate you will spend approximately 10 hours
per week studying and preparing for this class, reading and posting on discussions, taking tests, completing reflections and surveys and participating in web conferencing. It may take you more time, depending on how quickly you become acclimated to this upgraded version of Blackboard.

Where Can Get Help?-Campus Resources

For free tutoring on campus, contact the Learning Center (http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/lrc) in the Collection Level (basement level) of the Henry Madden Library. You can reach them by phone at 559.278.3052.

Note that they may not have someone to tutor in business law, but you may find useful tips on studying, taking notes while reading and test-taking.

Our campus has developed SupportNet (http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/lrc/supportnet) to connect students with specific campus resources promoting academic success. I will refer you to SupportNet if I believe you need the services provided by SupportNet to succeed in your course." I will make such referrals as an effort to help you succeed. If a counselor from SupportNet contacts you, please meet with the counselor to see what they might recommend.

Where Can Get Help?-Course Resources

I post weekly study tips in the announcements. Be sure to read those carefully, as I include reminders of upcoming due dates along with a review of what you’re completed the prior week. I recommend the following resources, especially the first set of videos on study techniques.

Videos: How to Study Long and Hard and Still Fail....How to get the Most Out of Studying (link URL is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RH95h36NChI)

Videos: Metacognition: How to Get the Most Out of Studying (link URL is http://www.samford.edu/departments/academic-success-center/how-to-study_)

Metacognition (link URL is https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/metacognition/)

Fact Sheet-Metacognitive Process (link URL is https://teal.ed.gov/tealguide/metacognitive)

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Information on student rights, responsibilities, academic honesty, etc., can be found on the Fresno State Student Handbook web page.