Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
PLAW 210
LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An introduction to the court system, case law and statutes, legal research and bibliography, legal analysis, writing legal memoranda, and writing for readability.

RATIONALE
Good legal research, analysis, and writing skills are perhaps the most important skills that a legal professional can possess. It is often said that the most important thing a law student learns in law school is how to think like a lawyer. Similarly, a paralegal must learn to think about the law in a way very similar to the way that lawyers do. For this, the skills of legal research, analysis, and writing are indispensable. In this course you will begin developing these important skills that are absolutely critical to becoming a successful paralegal professional.

I. PREREQUISITES
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Describe the major primary and secondary sources of law.
B. Identify the primary features and content of case reporters, codebooks, secondary sources, and various other collections and publications of legal authority.
C. Analyze case, statute, and constitutional provisions.
D. Locate relevant law controlling a factual problem.
E. Draft a memorandum of law explaining research results (as representative of other forms of legal documents).
F. Demonstrate legal writing skills and proper legal citation style.
G. Analyze all of the preceding in light of a distinctly evangelical Christian worldview.
V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, three Discussion Board Forums will be posted in order to generate interaction among students in regard to relevant current course topics. The student is required to post 1 thread of at least 250. In addition to the thread, the student must post 2 replies of at least 150 words. For each thread, the student must support his/her assertions with at least 3 citations in current Bluebook format. Each reply should cite at least one source, also in Bluebook format. Acceptable sources include the textbook, the Bible, and one or more scholarly, academic sources. For the purposes of this course, posts to the blog www.rodneychrisman.com will be considered scholarly, academic sources in order to integrate proper Christian worldview.

D. Memorandum of Law

This will be a research assignment with 3 parts. The student will research and prepare case briefs. Then, the student will compile the research and complete a rough draft. The final draft will then be submitted in Module/Week 7.

E. Tests (4)

There will be 4 tests covering the Hames & Ekern text. Each test will consist of 25 true/false and/or matching questions, be open-book/open-notes, and have a 1-hour time limit. The student may not receive help from another person while taking each exam.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorandum of Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Briefs</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Draft</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1 (Modules 1–2)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2 (Modules 3–4)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3 (Modules 5–6)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 4 (Modules 7–8)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
B. Scale
   A = 900–1010  B = 800–899  C = 700–799  D = 600–699  F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
# COURSE SCHEDULE

## PLAW 210


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hames &amp; Ekern: chs. 1–2, Appendices C, D, J Bluebook: Introduction, pp. 1–2 3 presentations 4 websites</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Thread</td>
<td>10 0 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hames &amp; Ekern: chs. 3–4 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 1 Replies Test 1</td>
<td>50 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hames &amp; Ekern: chs. 5–6 Bible Readings 1 presentation 4 websites</td>
<td>DB Forum 2 Thread Memorandum of Law: Case Briefs</td>
<td>50 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hames &amp; Ekern: chs. 7–8 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 2 Replies Test 2</td>
<td>50 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hames &amp; Ekern: chs. 9–10 1 presentation 2 websites</td>
<td>DB Forum 3 Thread Memorandum of Law: Rough Draft</td>
<td>50 150</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hames &amp; Ekern: chs. 11–12 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 3 Replies Test 3</td>
<td>50 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hames &amp; Ekern: chs. 13–14 1 presentation</td>
<td>Memorandum of Law: Final Draft</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hames &amp; Ekern: chs. 15–16 2 presentations</td>
<td>Test 4</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
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**TOTAL** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.