

**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***

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### **PLST 201**

#### **LEGAL RESEARCH**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will introduce students to the court system, case law, statutes, and legal research methods. Paralegals are expected to perform legal research that is both competent and cost effective. This requires an understanding of legal systems and legal research techniques. In this course, students will gain hands-on experience by employing current legal research methods.

#### **RATIONALE**

Quality legal research and writing skills are the hallmark of a great legal professional. The most important thing a law student learns is how to think and write like a legal professional. In this course, you will begin developing the important research skills that are critical to becoming a successful paralegal professional.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

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 Word

#### **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. Locate relevant law controlling a factual problem.
- D. Analyze a case to select the most legally significant information.
- E. Demonstrate proper legal citation style.
- F. 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, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 300–500 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, and include at least 3 scholarly, academic sources in Bluebook format. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 150–250 words and include at least 2 scholarly, academic sources cited in Bluebook format.

D. Internet Assignments (7)

The student is required to provide answers in response to the assigned questions. The length of these assignments will vary in nature.

E. Case Briefs (3)

The student will draft a 1–2-page synopsis of 3 assigned cases. The student will briefly explain the facts, issues, holding, and rationale of each case assigned.

F. Statutory Research Assignment

The student is required to provide answers in response to an assigned question. There is no length requirement to this assignment.

G. Research Project Selection

The student will select 1 of several project options from a pre-approved list.

H. Final Research Project

The student will perform research based on the project he/she selected in order to locate and brief 4 relevant cases and a minimum of 2 statutory sections.

I. Quizzes (3)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned module/week. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 25 multiple-choice and true/false, matching, or fill-in-the blank questions, and have a 1-hour time limit.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES****A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 75 pts ea)	225
Internet Assignments (7 at 25 pts ea)	175
Case Briefs (3 at 75 pts ea)	225
Statutory Research Assignment	50
Research Project Selection	25
Final Research Project	150
Quizzes (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

**B. Scale**

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

**C. Disability Assistance**

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PLST 201**

Textbook: Bouchoux, *Legal Research and Writing for Paralegals* (2017).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Bouchoux: chs. 1–2 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1	75
		Internet Assignment 1	25
<b>2</b>	Bouchoux: chs. 3–4 3 presentations	Case Brief 1	75
		Statutory Research Assignment	50
		Internet Assignment 2	25
<b>3</b>	Bouchoux: chs. 6–7 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	75
		Internet Assignment 3	25
		Quiz 1	50
<b>4</b>	Bouchoux: ch. 8 1 presentation	Case Brief 2	75
		Internet Assignment 4	25
		Quiz 2	50
<b>5</b>	Bouchoux: chs. 11–12 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	75
		Internet Assignment 5	25
<b>6</b>	Bouchoux: ch. 13 1 presentation	Case Brief 3	75
		Research Project Selection	25
		Internet Assignment 6	25
<b>7</b>	Bouchoux: ch. 9 1 presentation	Internet Assignment 7	25
		Quiz 3	50
<b>8</b>	Bouchoux: ch. 10 2 presentations	Final Research Project	150
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1010</b>

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**.