Office:  
Library Suite (down the hall behind the circulation desk- first workspace on your right)  
You are welcome to stop by or make an appointment to meet with me as necessary.

Contact information:  
Office: 801-585-5064  
E-mail: felicity.murphy@law.utah.edu

Purpose of Class:  
As the research lab portion of the Legal Methods class, this skills class is designed to help you become  
familiar with legal research resources, both print and electronic, and how to use them to perform legal  
research effectively. Topics to be addressed include: case finding, statutes, regulations, and secondary  
resources. This course will provide you with an essential foundation as you proceed throughout your law  
school experience and ultimately enter the workforce.

Communication with Me Outside of Class:  
I generally work in the library 8-4 M-F. Do not hesitate to ask me for help. If you drop by and I am not  
at my desk I may be out on the reference desk. In addition to assisting you with legal research, I was in  
your shoes not too long ago and may be able to offer you some insight about the whole law school  
experience.

Attendance:  
This is law school; you are paying a lot of money to be here. Come to class. In case this is not enough  
to motivate you, the College of Law attendance policy requires 80% attendance to pass the course.

Class Location:  
The first week of school class will be held on Thursday, Aug. 23rd from 8:00-8:55 am in the Moot  
Courtroom. All other classes meet on Mondays in Library 112 (except for Monday Sept. 3rd- we will  
meet on Tuesday Sept. 4th instead, location TBA).

Grading and Assignments:  
1. You will receive a grade for this class which will appear on your transcript but not be computed into  
your GPA. This grade will be based on six weekly assignments, attendance at  
Lexis/Westlaw/Bloomberg-Law training and passing of associated tests, class participation, and a final  
research problem.

2. Weekly assignments are due by 5:00 pm on the dates indicated on the syllabus. The assignments will  
be handed out electronically via TWEN and you may hand them in by e-mail to me or in print to the  
library circulation desk (they are time-stamped). A half-point will be deducted for each day they are  
late.

3. Please complete your assigned reading from Basic Legal Research by Amy Sloan before coming to  
class. The course is Socratic; you will be expected to participate. Points will be deducted from your  
participation score if you come to class unprepared or spend your time surfing the web/ reading e-mail.

4. As part of the course you must complete a basic Lexis, Westlaw, & Bloomberg-Law training which will  
be offered the 6th week of the semester and pass a corresponding certification test for each database.
These tests must be completed by 5pm on Nov. 30th. You will also be required to attend an advanced training offered Spring semester.

5. Please be considerate. All of you are trying to complete the same assignment in a short amount of time, so please return books to their PROPER places when you have finished using them.

6. Don’t cheat. You’re better than that.
   **Completing Assignments:** While working on the six weekly assignments you may work together to discuss how to tackle each problem as part of the learning process. However, each student must go to the sources and do the assigned work. It is unacceptable to divide the workload and then trade answers. Copying another student’s assignment is cheating.
   **Final Research Problem & Lexis/Westlaw/Bloomberg-Law Tests:** YOU MUST WORK ALONE. You may discuss any of the tests or final research problem with me; however none of these should be discussed with anyone else.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments 1-6 (10 pts each)</td>
<td>60 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexis/Westlaw/Bloomberg Law classes/ tests</td>
<td>6 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Performance</td>
<td>4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Problem</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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Class 1, Aug. 23  
Practitioners’ Perspective on Legal Research—Guest Speakers

*All legal research classes will be combined and meet at 8:00-8:55 a.m. in the Moot Court Room*

Class 2, Aug. 27  
Introduction to Legal Research: Court Reports
**Assignment 1** handed out (10 pts), due by 5:00 pm Aug. 29  
Recommended CALI lesson: Where does Law Come From?

Class 3, Sept. 4  
Case Finding: Digests, American Law Reports, Full-text Searching
**Assignment 2** handed out (10 pts), due by 5:00 pm Sept. 6  
Recommended CALI lessons: How to Find a Case Using the Digests & American Law Reports

Read prior to Lexis/ WL/ B-Law Training on Sept. 25
Sloan 5th ed. pp. 271-98 (pay particular attention to pp. 279-293)  

Class 4, Sept. 10  
Case Verification & Updating—Citators
Sloan, 5th ed. pp. 143-166 (Recommended: pp. 167-171)  
**Assignment 3** handed out (10 pts), due by 5:00 pm Sept. 12  
Recommended CALI lesson: Updating/ Validating Case Law Using Citators

Class 5, Sept. 17  
Statutes & Regulations
**Assignment 4** handed out (10 pts), due by 5:00 pm Sept. 19  
Recommended CALI lesson: Introduction to State and Federal Statutes

Class 6, Sept. 24  
Secondary Sources
Sloan 5th ed. pp. 43-74 (Recommended: pp. 75-77, 85-91)  
**Assignment 5** handed out (10 pts), due by 5:00 pm Sept 26th  
Recommended CALI lesson: Introduction to Secondary Sources

**Lexis/ WL/ B-Law Training**  
Tuesday, Sept. 25th in Carlson Hall (10:45-12:15)

Class 7, Oct. 1  
Research Strategy & In-Library Research Exercise
Recommended CALI lesson: Legal Research Methodology

October 8-12  
**FALL BREAK**

Class 8, Oct. 15  
TBA  
**Assignment 6** handed out (10 pts), due by 5:00 pm Oct. 17  
Recommended CALI lesson: Cost of Legal Research

Class 9, Oct. 22  
REVIEW

FINAL, Oct. 29  
Final Research project will be handed out on Oct. 29 @ 9:00 am via TWEN. It is due Nov. 6 by 5:00 pm (30 pts).

* Lexis/ Westlaw/ BloombergLaw required classes and tests MUST be completed by 5:00 pm on Nov. 30.*