

# LEX 180 Case Analysis and Reasoning

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: LEX 120

This course covers the techniques of reading and applying legal opinions and the skills of case analysis. Emphasis is on the components of opinions and on types of legal writing. Upon completion, students should be able to read, analyze, and brief opinions as well as prepare legal memoranda, briefs, and other legal documents. Course Hours Per Week: Class, 1. Lab, 2. Semester Hours Credit, 2.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the various components of legal opinions
2. Understand how to read and identify the necessary components of case briefs
3. Demonstrate how to apply court opinions to the client's case through fact and rule
4. Demonstrate how to effectively prepare legal memoranda, briefs, and other legal document

## OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Analyzing cases
  - A. Briefing a case
    - i. Identifying the parties
    - ii. Identifying their objectives and theories
    - iii. Identifying the history of the litigation
    - iv. Identifying key facts
    - v. Identifying issues and holdings
    - vi. Identifying the reasoning of the court
    - vii. Identifying the disposition
    - viii. Identifying dictum
- II. Applying court opinions
  - A. Types of comparison
    - i. Fact comparison
      - a. Fact similarities
      - b. Fact differences
      - c. Factual gaps
    - ii. Rule-of-law comparison
  - B. Inclusion of analysis in written documents
    - i. Memoranda
    - ii. Briefs
    - iii. Correspondence

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL:

The textbook and other instructional material will be determined by the instructor.