JEFFERSON COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

BIT242

LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET

3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
Judy Larson
January 2, 2008

Career & Technical Education
Dr. John R. Keck, Dean
Brenda Russell, Associate Dean
BIT242 Legal Research on the Internet

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

A. Pre-requisites: BIT140 Internet Communications

B. 3 Semester Hours Credit

C. Legal Research on the Internet will provide the student with the knowledge, tools, search skills, and methodology necessary for legal professionals to excel at computer-aided legal research for the legal profession. (F, S)

II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/CORRESPONDING ASSESSMENT MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students will use the Internet as a law library for research.</th>
<th>Students will be given a class project where they will research a subject matter for a lawyer and make a presentation on what they learned and what research materials they used.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the legal and ethical issues of using the Internet for research</td>
<td>Students will make a presentation pertaining to legal and ethical issues of using the Internet and a PowerPoint presentation will be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will conduct legal research on the Internet using site addresses and directories.</td>
<td>Students will work as a team in conducting research for a law transcriptionist office for the legal files submitted to them for transcription using site addresses and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will conduct legal research on the Internet using search engines.</td>
<td>Students will work as a group in researching a legal case for the lawyer using search engines and put their list of search engines in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will conduct research on the Internet using legal databases.</td>
<td>Students will develop a legal database for a simulated legal office and will submit the database to the instructor using Access.n-class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students will conduct Internet research using legal sources for administrative law, bankruptcy law, contract law, criminal law, environmental law, family law, health-care law, immigration law, intellectual property law, international law, labor and employment law, tort law, real estate law and tax and estates law.</td>
<td>Students will complete an in-class exam using the Internet for researching the questions asked for the legal sources listed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS

A. Bibliographic Indexing Services of a Law Library

B. Bibliographic Indexing Services of a Public Library

C. Legal and Ethical Issues of Using the Internet for Research
   1. Regulation versus free speech
   2. Defamation, libel, and slander
   3. Rights of publicity
   4. Fraud
   5. Spam
   6. Hacking and computer viruses

D. Using Site Addresses and Directories for Research on the Internet
   1. Sources of internet information
   2. Finding the site when the site address is known
   3. Types of search tools
   4. Topical directory
   5. Keyword index
   6. Search engine
   7. How to find a site address if it is unknown
   8. Internet directories

E. Using Search Engines to Research on the Internet for the Legal Profession
   1. Inclusive method
   2. Selective method
   3. Keyword search terms and phrases
   4. The search professional must have a good sense of what is being sought
   5. Use a mix of search engines to locate most relevant pages
   6. Review and search within found pages
   7. The meta search engines

F. Searching Legal Databases on the Internet
   1. Searching in legal databases
   2. Searching for legal documents
   3. Entry and modification of the search
   4. Retrieval and use of search results
   5. WestFind
   6. LEXIS
   7. Westlaw
   8. Loislaw
Using Legal Resources on the Internet for the Legal Professional

1. Administrative law
2. Bankruptcy law
3. Contract law
4. Criminal law
5. Environmental law
6. Family law
7. Health-Care law
8. Immigration law
9. Intellectual Property law
10. International law
11. Labor and Employment law
12. Tort law
13. Real Estate law
14. Tax and Estates law

IV. METHOD(S) OF INSTRUCTION

A. Class Discussion
B. Lecture and Presentations
C. Projects on the Internet

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S) WITH PUBLICATION INFORMATION


VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS (STUDENT)

A. Flash Drive
B. Three-Ring Binder
C. Pen, Pencil, and Paper

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

Internet Websites
VIII. METHOD OF EVALUATION (basis for determining grade)

A. Homework 20%
B. Projects 60%
C. Final Exam 20%

IX. ADA AA STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library phone 636-481-3169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College website, http://www.jeffco.edu).

XI. ATTENDANCE STATEMENT

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. Any one of these four options may result in the student being removed from the class and an administrative withdrawal being processed: (1) Student fails to begin class; (2) Student ceases participation for at least two consecutive weeks; (3) Student misses 15 percent or more of the coursework; and/or (4) Student misses 15 percent or more of the course as defined by the instructor. Students earn their financial aid by regularly attending and actively participating in their coursework. If a student does not actively participate, he/she may have to return financial aid funds. Consult the College Catalog or a Student Financial Services representative for more details.

XII. OUTSIDE OF CLASS ACADEMICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Department of Education mandates that students be made aware of expectations regarding coursework to be completed outside the classroom. Students are expected to spend substantial time outside of class meetings engaging in academically related activities such as reading, studying, and completing assignments. Specifically, time spent on academically related activities outside of class combined with time spent in class meetings is expected to be a minimum of 37.5 hours over the duration of the term for each credit hour.