



Wayne County Community College District

COURSE SYLLABUS

PLT 120 Legal Research Writing I

CREDIT HOURS: 3.00

CONTACT HOURS: 45.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the American legal system, legal research and writing skills. Students are introduced to printed and online resources available through the law library and the Internet.

PREREQUISITES: *Program Admission, PLT 105, PLT 135*

EXPECTED COMPETENCIES:

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

1. Appreciate the role of government and policies in the evolution of statutory and common law
2. Develop an understanding of the significance of judiciary structure to legal research
3. Distinguish between state and federal court systems
4. Identify practical application and use of the Michigan Uniform System of Citation
5. Initiate a case and draft a pleading
6. Understand the role of facts in legal research
7. Develop a legal vocabulary
8. Conduct a client interview
9. Learn to identify issues and find the applicable law
10. Use standard court forms

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

Student performance may be assessed by examination, quizzes, case studies, oral conversation, group discussion, oral presentations. The instructor reserves the option to employ one or more of these assessment methods during the course.

GRADING SCALE:

90%-100% = A
80%-89.9% = B
70%-79.9% = C
60%-69.9% = D
<60% = E