



**Legal Research &
Writing : LAW 104**

**Credit Hours: 3
Semester: Spring 2022
Cap: 25**

Faculty: Sidner Larson

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Office: Law Building

Office Phone: 515.520.3288

Office Hours: By appointment

Preferred Communication: email and/or text; will respond within 24 hours)

Modality (face-to-face, hybrid, or online)

Class Location and Meeting Times: Law Building T/TH, 9-11:00, face to face, BlackBoard-Zoom

Required Materials: The course will utilize open source materials (no textbook)

Laptop and Internet Access: Every student is required to own a laptop and have internet access.

Mission, Vision, and Philosophy

Mission: Navajo Technical University honors Diné culture and language, while educating for the future.

Vision: Navajo Technical University provides an excellent educational experience in a supportive, culturally diverse environment, enabling all community members to grow intellectually, culturally, and economically.

Philosophy: Through the teachings of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahátá (planning), Íina (implementing), and Siihasin (reflection), students acquire quality education in diverse fields, while preserving cultural values and gaining economic opportunities.

Course Description

As an introduction course, we will work together to gain understanding of basic legal writing and research as applied to the Dine context.

NOTE: This syllabus may be modified, updated or changed. While the instructor will announce any changes in class, students are responsible to review this document periodically, especially the activity schedule, and submit coursework as indicated.

Course Outcomes	Course Assessments
Demonstrate familiarity with basic writing and research as they relate on the Navajo Nation	Assignments, quizzes, oral presentations
Understand the Basic Laws of the Dine People	Assignments, oral presentations
Practice legal writing skills	Written assignments, rubrics
Analyze fact situations and apply legal principles	Homework and class participation, assignments and assessments
Demonstrate professionalism	Observation, self- and peer assessments

Connections to Program Assessment (Course-Embedded Measures)

Course Activities

Week	Date	Class Topics/Reading Due	Assignments Due	Assessments
1	1.18--1.21	Introduction, syllabus.		Self Introduction
		Last day to add/drop	1.21.22	
2	1.24--1.28	Rule-Based Reasoning		Discussion
3	1.31--2.4	Issues, Facts, Precedents, Statutes		Discussion
4	2.7—2.11	Predictive Writing		Discussion
5	2.14—2.18	Office Memo		Discussion
		Graduation Petition due	2.25.22	
6	2.21—2.25	Email/Client Advice Letters	2.21.22 Holiday	Discussion
7	2.28—3.4	How to brief a case/template		Discussion
8	3.7—3.11	Midterm Presentation, Paper due	Midterms	
9	3.14—3.18		SPRING BREAK	
10	3.21—3.25	Citation		Discussion
		Last day to withdraw with “W”	3.31.22	
11	3.28—4.1	Persuasion-Theory		Discussion
12	4.4—4.8	Persuasion-Arguments		Discussion
13	4.11—4.15	Selecting Authority/Using Statutes		Discussion
14	4.18—4.22	Use of Precedent/Facts		Discussion
15	4.25—4.29	Dine Fundamental Laws		Discussion
16	5.2—5.6	Dine Fundamental Laws		Discussion
17	5.9—5.12	Presentations/Final Paper due	Finals 5.9-11.22	
		Grades due to the Registrar	5.12.22	
		Graduation	5.13.22	

Grading Plan TBD, but currently--

Homework: 50%

Class Participation: 10%

Project(s): 10%

Mid-term: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

A = 100-90%

B = 89-80%

C = 79-70%

D = 69-60%

F = 59% or less

Grading Policy

Students must do their own work. Cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Cheating includes (but is not limited to) plagiarism, submission of work that is not one's own, submission or use of falsified data, unauthorized access to exams or assignments, use of unauthorized material during an exam, or supplying or communicating unauthorized information for assignments or exams. Late assignments will be subject to a lower score, and if five or more days late, may receive zero marks.

Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class activities. Points will be given to students who actively participate in class activities including guest speakers, field trips, laboratories, and all other classroom events.

Cell phone and headphone use

Please turn cell phones off **before** coming to class. Cell phone courtesy is essential to quality classroom learning. Headphones must be removed before coming to class.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. If more than ten minutes late, students will be counted as absent. A percentage of the student's grade will be based on class attendance and participation. Absence from class, regardless of the reason, does not relieve the student of responsibility to complete all course work by required deadlines. Furthermore, it is the student's responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and any other information covered when absent from class and to arrange to make up any in-class assignments or tests if permitted by the instructor. Incomplete or missing assignments will necessarily affect the student's grades. Instructors will report excessive and/or unexplained absences to the Counseling Department for investigation and potential intervention. **Instructors may drop students from the class after three (3) absences unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor to make up work and the instructor deems any excuse acceptable.**

Study Time Outside of Class for Face-to-Face Courses

For every credit hour in class, a student is expected to spend two hours outside of class studying course materials.

Study Time for Hybrid or Blended Courses

For a hybrid or blended course of one credit hour, a student is expected to spend three hours per week studying course materials.

Study Time for Online Courses

For an online course of one credit hour, a student is expected to spend four hours per week studying course materials.

Academic Integrity

Integrity (honesty) is expected of every student in all academic work. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be the student's own. Students who engage in academic dishonesty diminish their education and bring discredit to the University community. Avoid situations likely to compromise academic integrity such as: cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism; modifying academic work to obtain additional credit in the same class unless approved in advance by the instructor, failure to observe rules of academic integrity established by the instructor. **The use of another person's ideas or work claimed as your own without acknowledging the original source is known as plagiarism and is prohibited.**

Diné Philosophy of Education

The Diné Philosophy of Education (DPE) is incorporated into every class for students to become aware of and to understand the significance of the four Diné philosophical elements, including its affiliation with the four directions, four sacred mountains, the four set of thought processes and so forth: Nitsáhákees, Nahát'á, Íina and Siih Hasin which are essential and relevant to self-identity, respect and wisdom to achieve career goals successfully.

At NTU's Zuni Campus, the A:shiwí Philosophy of Education offers essential elements for helping students develop Indigenous and Western understandings. Yam de bena: dap haydoshna: akkya hon detsemak a:wannikwa da: hon de:tsemak a:ts'umme. *Our language and ceremonies allow our people to maintain strength and knowledge.* A:shiwí core values of hon i:yyułashik'yanna:wa (respect), hon delank'oha:willa:wa (kindness and empathy), hon i:yyayumola:wa (honesty and trustworthiness), and hon kohoł lewuna:wediyahnan, wan hon kela i:tsemanna (think critically) are central to attaining strength and knowledge. They help learners develop positive self-identity, respect, kindness, and critical thinking skills to achieve life goals successfully.

Students with Disabilities

Navajo Technical University is committed to serving all students in a non-discriminatory and accommodating manner. Any student who feels that she or he may need special accommodations should contact the Accommodations Office (<http://www.navajotech.edu/student-services#accommodations-services>) in accordance with the university's Disability Accommodations Policy (see http://www.navajotech.edu/images/about/policiesDocs/Disability_Exhibit-A_6-26-2018.pdf).

Email Address

Students are required to use NTU's email address for all communications with faculty and staff.

Final Exam Date: 5.9-11.2022