

LEG 130S-801SS - Legal Research & Writing - Fall 2026

Institution: Edison State Community College

Credits: 3

Instructor: Sabra L. Tomb, Esq.

Office Hours: Virtual as needed

Email: stomb@edisonohio.edu

Phone: 937-470-4706 (cell)

Textbook (Updated): *Legal Research and Writing for Paralegals, Tenth Edition*, Deborah E. Bouchoux

Course Format: Independent Study (Blackboard-supported; no regularly scheduled class meetings).

Academic Calendar Highlights (Fall 2026)

- **Term dates:** August 24-December 13, 2026
 - **Coursework begins:** Monday, August 24, 2026
 - **Campus closures:** Labor Day (September 7); Veterans Day (November 11); Thanksgiving (November 26-28)
 - **Withdrawal deadline:** Confirm the full-term Fall 2026 deadline in MyESCC or with Registration and Records
 - **Weekly deadline:** Sunday at 11:59 PM unless otherwise stated in Blackboard
 - **Coursework ends:** Sunday, December 13, 2026
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Schedule of Independent-Study Assignments

Week 1 - Aug. 24-30

Reading: None

Homework: Introductory Memo; Weekly Blackboard Response

Week 2 - Aug. 31-Sept. 6

Reading: Chapter 1

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 3 - Sept. 7-13

Reading: Chapter 2

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 4 - Sept. 14-20

Reading: Chapter 3

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 5 - Sept. 21-27

Reading: Chapter 4

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 6 - Sept. 28-Oct. 4

Reading: Chapter 5

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; **First Writing Project Due**

Week 7 - Oct. 5-11

Reading: Chapter 6

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 8 - Oct. 12-18

Reading: None

Homework: **Mid-Term Exam (online)**

Week 9 - Oct. 19-25

Reading: Chapter 7

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 10 - Oct. 26-Nov. 1

Reading: Chapter 8

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; **Second Writing Project Due**

Week 11 - Nov. 2-8

Reading: Chapter 9

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Reminder: Confirm the full-term Fall 2026 withdrawal deadline in MyESCC or with Registration and Records.

Week 12 - Nov. 9-15

Reading: Chapter 10

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 13 - Nov. 16-22

Reading: Chapter 11

Homework: Weekly Blackboard Response; Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 14 - Nov. 23-29

Reading: Chapter 12

Homework: Research Assignment; Internet Assignment

Week 15 - Nov. 30-Dec. 6

Reading: None — Review for Final Exam

Homework: **Final Writing Project Due**; Optional Extra Credit

Week 16 - Dec. 7-13

Reading: None

Homework: **Final Exam (online)**

Weekly coursework concludes Sunday, December 13, 2026.

Weekly Blackboard Responses

Weekly Blackboard responses are individual written submissions designed to demonstrate engagement with the assigned material. Responses are due Sunday by 11:59 PM unless otherwise posted. Peer replies are not required unless specifically assigned.

Tests & Quizzes

All tests and quizzes are online. Time limits apply, and once started, exams must be completed in one sitting. Use a reliable computer (no cell phones). Exams open during the assigned week and **close on Sunday by 11:59 PM.**

Homework

Assigned homework and projects (Memos) are due **Sunday by 11:59 PM** during the week listed and as posted in Blackboard.

Independent-Study Engagement

- 135 total engagement points
- 5 points per assigned lesson or instructor check-in completed
- 5 points per complete weekly Blackboard response

Evaluation Methods

- Introductory Memo — 25 points
- Completing Assigned Lessons/Check-ins - 75 points
- Weekly Blackboard Responses - 60 points
- Research Assignment Homework — 50 points
- Internet Assignment Homework — 50 points
- Writing Project — 100 points
- Mid-Term Exam — 50 points
- Final Writing Project — 100 points
- Final Exam — 100 points

Total Course Points: 610

Extra credit opportunities may be created through unannounced quizzes or other activities.

Policy Statements (Selected)

1. All homework must be typewritten. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are part of the grade. Handwritten work incurs a 10-point penalty.
 2. Submit homework via **Blackboard** as a **Word** file.
 3. Academic dishonesty (cheating/plagiarism) will not be tolerated and results in a failing grade.
 4. **Last Day to Withdraw: Confirm the full-term Fall 2026 deadline in MyESCC or with Registration and Records.**
 5. The instructor may make changes to the syllabus as necessary.
 6. Students must attend scheduled individual conferences prepared and minimize distractions during meetings and assessments.
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Notes for Students

- All dates and deadlines follow the official 2026-2027 Academic Calendar and Edison State's Fall 2026 Big Dates. Blackboard controls assignment-specific deadlines.