



CRESTPOINT UNIVERSITY

717 E. Maryland Avenue

Phoenix, AZ 85014

Tel: 800-371-6105

Fax: 866-347-2744

E-mail: info@crestpoint.edu

Website: crestpoint.edu

PLG-108 Legal Research, Writing and Civil Litigation Syllabus and Course Guide

The Legal Research, Writing and Civil Litigation course meets 15 times over the course of the 8- week term in the Crestpoint Interactive classroom. Each session consists of about 60 minutes of online lecture by the course instructor. After the lecture, students may ask questions and make comments on the material being studied.

Classes for this course occur on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:15 PM Eastern time, in accordance with the lecture schedule on this syllabus. The course starts on Monday, March 2, 2026. Please note the first live class will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

All class sessions are recorded and may be viewed by students at any time.

Unless an extension has been taken pursuant to the Crestpoint Extensions Policy (see the end of this syllabus), all course assessments must be submitted by the course deadline which appears later in this syllabus. The deadline can also be found at the end of the syllabus or by clicking on the Course Name, then Progress Report. Generally, the course deadline is approximately 4 weeks after the last day of the course.

No extensions may be taken or granted unless the student has submitted one or more assignments or exams in advance of the original deadline. In addition, extensions are subject to grade penalties and are limited to no more than 15 days from the date of the original deadline.

Please note that students are strongly encouraged to do their work as the course progresses rather than waiting for the days or weeks before the deadline to do all of their work. It is also critically important that students realize that:

1. A grade of "Incomplete" is the same as an "F" and is a failing grade.
2. A grade of "Incomplete" will result in a reduction in the student's grade point average.
3. Student may have to pay to re-take or replace a course for which a grade of Incomplete is assigned.

4. Two consecutive Incompletes may subject the student to dismissal from the college under Crestpoint's chronic incomplete policy.
5. Students with a GPA of under 2.0 are not eligible to receive federal financial aid and cannot graduate until their GPA is at or above 2.0.

If you are having trouble completing the course, the student is strongly encouraged to contact his or her academic advisor or [Academic Support](#).

Please note also that:

- A student who receives an incomplete on his or her first course may be dismissed from Crestpoint.
- A student who fails to complete at least one weekly interaction during the first 14 days of the course will automatically be withdrawn from the course per Crestpoint policy. The student may re-join the class by prompt notification to Crestpoint and by prompt completion of an interaction shortly thereafter.

Course Instructor(s):

Instructor: Deanna (Dede) Sandler (dede@crestpoint.edu)

Grader: Susan Israel (susan@crestpoint.edu)

Course Description:

This course is among the most important courses a paralegal student can take, simply because it is in the area of litigation that attorneys rely most heavily on their paralegals. This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the major aspects of civil litigation, from both the plaintiff's and defendant's perspectives. The course will focus on a variety of subjects aimed at teaching the student how to manage a case from beginning to end. The subjects covered in the course will include determining jurisdiction and venue; initiating and commencing a lawsuit; client counseling; investigation techniques and the discovery process; the drafting of summons and complaints, motions, briefs and pleadings; settlement techniques; the trial itself; pre- and post-trial activities and the appeals process.

This course will also offer an intensive but simplified introduction to U.S. legal systems and methodologies, basic principles of *stare decisis* and precedent, the nature of legal education, and sources of law. Topics include: the judicial structure, including both federal and state; statutes, regulations, common law and constitutional law; synthesizing sources of law; the judicial process and the doctrine of *stare decisis*; overruling precedent, holding, rationale, and dictum.

The key component of the paralegal's role in civil litigation is drafting documents. Therefore, this course will also focus on training our students to do competent legal research and develop their ability to draft legal documents. Students will learn to identify and use a variety of research tools, including both the online collection provided by LexisNexis® as well as traditional book-based methods of legal research. A portion of the course will focus on the various types and form books of reference books, proper case citation, cite checking and the proper method of case reporting, Shepardizing, methods of compiling legislative histories and administrative legal research.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Research legal issues in any jurisdiction.
- Conduct online research to find primary and secondary sources of legal authority
- Cite legal sources appropriately.
- Distinguish between binding and non-binding authority.
- “Shepardize” to determine if case law is valid.
- Edit and revise a persuasive legal memorandum.
- Describe the requirements of complaints and answers under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
- Apply and describe the rules of venue.
- Determine whether a class action certification is appropriate based on a given fact pattern.
- Demonstrate how case precedent and stare decisis influence case holdings.
- Evaluate whether a court has subject matter jurisdiction in both federal and state courts.
- Differentiate between personal jurisdiction, in-rem jurisdiction, and quasi-in-rem jurisdiction.
- Apply the *Erie* doctrine in a variety of scenarios.

Textbook:

All reading assignments refer to the Crestpoint courseware, Cases and/or statutes that are specifically mentioned in the syllabus are required reading. The texts of these cases and/or statutes may be accessed directly from the courseware. In addition to the assigned courseware and cases, students should familiarize themselves with the various legal documents listed for each lecture. These documents can be found on the Course Materials, under this course’s materials, on the Crestpoint student website. Some, but not all, of these documents will be discussed in class. Reading assignments for each class should be completed prior to the class.

In addition to the courseware’s electronic form, you may also view/print out a PDF version of the courseware that includes:

- 1) The courseware
- 2) All lecture slides

See the course materials page for the link.

RECOMMENDED READING:

It is *highly* recommended that students obtain copies of the following reference books:

- 1) William H. Putnam, [Pocket Guide to Legal Research](http://www.amazon.com/Pocket-Guide-Research-William-Putman/dp/1418053767/)

2) William H. Putnam, [Pocket Guide to Legal Writing](http://www.amazon.com/Pocket-Guide-Legal-Writing/dp/1401865976/)
<http://www.amazon.com/Pocket-Guide-Legal-Writing/dp/1401865976/>

The links to Amazon.com above are for your convenience only. You can get these books from virtually any source at which legal and legal education books are sold. This syllabus references readings from these books, which should be treated as optional, but encouraged, reading. These books should also be kept throughout your Crestpoint University career (and perhaps for your work career as well) as handy references regarding legal citation, legal research and legal writing rules and principles.

Weekly Interaction Requirement

To ensure that all students are involved, participating, and in compliance within the course, each student should complete one assessment each week. This requirement may also be met by attending a live session during a given week. Students who do not fulfill the requirement within a given week will be sent reminder emails. Students who fail to interact in multiple weeks may be subject to academic and financial aid consequences, in accordance with Crestpoint's Satisfactory Academic Policy and other school policies.

Course Structure

After logging into your Crestpoint student account, locate your enrolled course by scrolling down and clicking on the course name. Your course will expand, and you will find eight modules, each corresponding to one week of the course. Slides and documents, assignments, discussions, and exams for each week are organized within the respective module. Recorded lectures will be posted as the course goes along.

Assessments

Assessments may be in the form of discussion questions, assignments, and/or exams.

Exams are graded on a scale of 0-100 and must be done in 2-4 hours, depending on the exam. The start exam page indicates the length of time for each exam. Discussions and assignments should be completed in accordance with the assignment instructions. Assignment information can be found at the end of the course syllabus.

Please see the Grading Policy under School Links for specific details regarding the grading of assessments.

Crestpoint Academic Advisor

Each Crestpoint student is assigned an academic advisor upon enrollment. Your academic advisor is a resource that can and should be drawn on if you need academic assistance. This includes advice on studying, help with assignments, general academic questions, etc. You should have received an email from your academic advisor upon enrollment. If you have not received such an email or do not know who your academic advisor is, please contact Anne Lewis at anne@crestpoint.edu.

Crestpoint Plagiarism Policy

All work done by Crestpoint students is expected to be their own work. In addition, Crestpoint students may not share their completed work, answer keys, or sample answers which they have obtained by any method with any other student. Students may NOT upload any sample answer (whether written by themselves or any other person) to any publicly available website or database.

Students are requested and encouraged to please review the [Academic Integrity and AI Use Policy](#). Students are responsible for complying with its terms.

Course Grades

Grades are issued on a classical A through F scale based on the grades scored on the assessments, per this syllabus.

Lesson Schedule

Module 1

Lecture 1: PRE-RECORDED

We will begin this course with a background discussion of the U.S. legal system and the structure of our judiciary. We will look at the various sources of law that exist under the American system and analyze the differences between primary and secondary sources of law. Finally, we will discuss the concept of case law and discuss how to tell when it is appropriate to cite a particular case.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 1: United States Legal System– Judicial Structure

- A. Introduction to Separation of Powers
- B. Federalism and the Difference between Federal and State Judicial Systems
- C. Sources of Law
- D. Case Law

Cases and Statutes:

United States Constitution, Article III

The best way to start gaining an understanding of the manner in which the U.S. judicial system works is by going straight to the source: Article III. In that Article, the structure of the federal court system is established. When reading this article, notice how only the Supreme Court is mandated by the Constitution. Also, pay close attention to the bases for federal court jurisdiction. That language will be critical later in the course.

In re: United States

This is a very recent case with a strange fact pattern that deals with a fascinating issue. Normally, of course, it is the prosecutor that argues for the pressing of criminal charges and the judge decides if criminal charges are appropriate. Here, we have sort of a role reversal. The prosecutor wanted to drop a charge that the judge refused to drop! The judge even went so far as to appoint a private lawyer to prosecute the case. This case is a very important read because it brings into focus the separation of powers as it applies to the functioning of the criminal justice system.

Lecture 2: Wednesday, March 4, 2026

We will devote this class discussion to issues of legal citation and cite checking. We will discuss the different sources from which a person can access the complex body of information known as “the law.” We will learn how to cite check and how to “Shepardize” and discuss why those things are important. We will also discuss the types of sources that should be sought as primary or mandatory authority and the types of sources that are secondary authority.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 2: Legal Research

- A. Introduction to Legal Research
- B. Legal Research Sources
- C. Legal Citation
- D. Briefs, Legal Memoranda and Legal Writing
- E. Cite Checking

Legal citations: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

Complete Weekly Discussion 1

Module 2

Lecture 3: Monday, March 9, 2026

In this class, we will take a virtual trip to a “law library.” We will look at and discuss the various types of law volumes you would find at the law library. We will also discuss legal research using the physical digests. Although most legal research is done online today, it helps to know how to use law libraries for research as well.

Courseware Reading: None

If you have a copy of [Pocket Guide to Legal Research](#) referenced earlier in this syllabus, it is recommended that you read through as much of Chapters 1 through 5 as you can of that book. If you cannot complete this reading, then browse it and come back to read it more thoroughly when you can.

Lecture 4: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

In this class, we will begin a legal memorandum walkthrough. We will discuss research on Lexis and the Lexis system in general. Then, we will look at a legal research project (comparable to an assignment) and simulate the legal research component of completing that assignment. We will also organize our “assignment” in preparation for actually writing the assignment in our next class.

Courseware Reading: None

If you have a copy of Pocket Guide to Legal Research referenced earlier in this syllabus, it is recommended that you read through as much of Chapters 5 through 9 as you can of that book. If you cannot complete this reading, then browse it and come back to read it more thoroughly when you can.

Chapter 10 of this book should be used as a reference for citing various types of primary and secondary authority.

Complete Weekly Discussion 2

Module 3

Lecture 5: Monday, March 16, 2026

We will devote this class to discussing principles of legal writing. We will discuss how a memorandum of law should look and we will go through the “do’s” and “don’ts” of legal writing. We will look at various important legal writing strategies, including the usage of strong transitional words, avoidance of legalese, etc.

Courseware Reading: None

If you have a copy of Pocket Guide to Legal Writing referenced earlier in this syllabus, it is recommended that you read through as much of Chapters 1 through 4 as you can of that book. If you cannot complete this reading, then browse it and come back to read it more thoroughly when you can.

Lecture 6: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

In this class, we will continue our assignment walkthrough from class 4. We will take our research and organization from class 4 and use it to draft a legal memorandum from scratch. Special attention will be paid to drafting statements of fact, properly framing the legal issue, properly citing and quoting legal authority, stating the rule of law, applying the rules to the facts at hands and drafting an appropriate conclusion.

Courseware Reading:

None required; however, it is recommended that you read the Courseware reading for Class 7 (Jurisdiction), so you will have a basic understanding of jurisdiction when we go through the assignment.

If you have a copy of Pocket Guide to Legal Writing referenced earlier in this syllabus, it is recommended that you read through as much of Chapters 7 through 10 as you can of that book. If you cannot complete this reading, then browse it and come back to read it more thoroughly when you can.

Complete Weekly Discussion 3

Module 4

Lecture 7: Monday, March 23, 2026

In this class, we will begin the Civil Litigation component of our course. We will start that study with a discussion of jurisdiction. That is, we will discuss when a court has the power and authority to decide a case. First, we will focus on the question of jurisdiction over the parties or things. We will look at when a court may exercise jurisdiction over the parties and/or property involved in a civil action. Then, we will look at subject matter jurisdiction; or when the court has the authority to determine the legal questions brought before it.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 3: Jurisdiction

- A. Introduction: Jurisdiction over the Parties or Things
- B. Personal Jurisdiction
- C. In Rem and Quasi In Rem Jurisdiction
- D. Subject Matter Jurisdiction
- E. Subject Matter Jurisdiction - Supplemental Jurisdiction

Cases and Statutes:

International Shoe Co. v. Washington

This is probably the leading case in terms of the analysis of what constitutes “due process” in holding citizens of one state to the jurisdiction of the courts of another state. This case set forth the famous “minimum contacts + fairness” formula for determining whether it is constitutional to hold a person to the jurisdiction of a foreign state. When discussing later cases such as *Burger King* and *Asahi*, remember that all those cases fundamentally stem from *International Shoe*.

28 U.S.C. § 1331

This is the “federal question jurisdiction” provision for federal courts in the U.S. Code. It is short and to the point, but it must be read as a starting point for any discussion about federal question jurisdiction in federal courts.

28 U.S.C. § 1332

This is the “diversity jurisdiction” provision for federal courts in the U.S. Code. It describes when and under what circumstances a lawsuit can be brought in federal court simply because the litigants are from different states. Although there are many other provisions relating to federal court jurisdiction, this provision, along with 1331, is the most often used and therefore the most important to read.

Complete Assignment 1

Lecture 8: Wednesday, March 25,2026

First in this class, we will look at the issue of proper venue, i.e., how to choose in which court a civil case should proceed if more than one court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and persons involved in the case. Next, we will turn our focus to the issue of choice of law. Sometimes more than one set of laws appear to be applicable to a case, and the judge has to determine whether to apply federal or state law or must determine which state supplies the laws that should govern a case. We will touch on the famous *Erie* doctrine, in which the Supreme Court ruled that state law should be applied in federal court in some circumstances. In addition to the federal/state law dichotomy, we will also discuss the procedure for determining which state’s law to apply in the event that parties or events in more than one state are involved in the litigation.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 4: Venue, the Erie Doctrine and Choice of Law

- A. Venue- Introduction
- B. Venue- State actions
- C. Venue- Federal actions
- D. Venue- *Forum non conveniens*
- E. Erie Doctrine and Choice of Law- Introduction
- F. History of the Erie Doctrine
- G. Choice of Law

Cases and Statutes:

28 U.S.C. § 1391

This statute sets forth the rules for the proper venues for federal cases. Although venue rules vary from state to state, reading this statute will help give you an idea about how venue rules work. When reading the statute, think of the policy considerations that go into these rules and where it is fair to expect a person to bring or defend against a lawsuit.

Erie Railroad Co. v. Tompkins

This case, of course, gave rise to the famous *Erie* doctrine that provides that, in certain circumstances, state case law should be applied in federal court. The policy reasons for this rule and its limits make this doctrine an area of study unto itself. For our purposes, it will suffice to discuss the policy considerations that led to the decision and whether *Erie* and its progeny really do a good job at alleviating those concerns.

Complete Weekly Discussion 4

The Midterm Exam can be taken at this point

Module 5

Lecture 9: Monday, March 30, 2026

We will focus in this class on the opening stages of a civil case, i.e., the first steps in “pre-trial practice.” We will start by looking at the “pleadings,” i.e., the documents that open the civil action: the summons and complaint filed by the plaintiff and the defendant’s answer. We will discuss the content of these documents and how and when they must be filed and then served on the opponent. We will look at examples of these documents and discuss how they should be drafted.

Courseware reading:

Chapter 5: Pre-Trial Practice

- A. Introduction to Pre-Trial Practice
- B. Summons, Complaint and Answer
- C. Service of Process

Cases and Statutes:

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Rules 7 and 8

From this point on in the course, your primary reading of legal sources should be of the Rules of Procedure themselves. Although different states have different rules regarding civil procedure, the federal rules apply to federal courts in every state and serve as a great sample of a body or procedural rules. These two rules set forth the requirements for drafting complaints that initiate lawsuits.

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Rule 4

This Federal Rule discusses the procedure for service of process upon a defendant in a civil case. Keep in mind that the purpose of service of process is to notify the opponent of the lawsuit. How well does this rule guarantee that such notice will be effectively delivered? Are there any requirements that you would add?

Documents for Review:

- Civil Action Cover Sheet

- Summons in a Civil Action- Federal
- Sample Completed Complaint - State
- Waiver of Service of Summons - Federal
- Certificate of Service by Mail- State
- Answer to a Complaint Packet -State

Complete Weekly Discussion 5

Complete Assignment 2

SPRING BREAK: APRIL 1 - APRIL 12, 2026

Module 6

Lecture 10: Monday, April 13,2026

We will focus on the process of discovery in this class. We will look at the various methods that are available to parties to a civil proceeding to investigate in preparation for trial. We will discuss depositions, interrogatories, requests for documentation, etc., and we will look at the various forms that should be used during this process. We will also look at Rule 11 of the FRCP, which provides for sanctions against parties for an array of misconduct, including discovery violations.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 5: Pre-Trial Practice
D. Discovery and Rule 11

Cases and Statutes:

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Rule 11

This is the famous rule that allows a judge to impose sanctions on an attorney for filing a false, misleading or frivolous document or for other misconduct. In addition, the rule provides that the attorney must vouch for all documents filed during the course of the lawsuit. This rule is very important because it often serves as a basis for threats leveled between opponents in contentious civil proceedings.

Documents for Review:

- Provisional Discovery Plan- Federal
- Form Interrogatories - State
- Subpoena in a Civil Case - Federal
- Request for Admissions - State

Lecture 11: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Tonight, we will finish up our discussion of pre-trial practice by discussing various other issues relevant to this stage in the litigation. We will touch on the issues of pre-trial motions and joinder, which occur when parties other than the plaintiff and defendant seek to join litigation that may affect their interests. We will briefly touch on the doctrine of *res judicata* which aims to prevent issues from being litigated more than once.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 5: Pre-Trial Practice

- E. Pre-Trial Motions Practice
- F. Adding Parties and Claims
- G. *Res Judicata* and Collateral Estoppel

Cases and Statutes:

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Rule 12

This very important rule lists the motions that a defendant in a lawsuit can file in response to a complaint leveled by the plaintiff. The defendant can move to dismiss the case for a variety of reasons or can move to have the plaintiff clarify the allegations in the complaint. The rule also discusses which of the various defenses are waived if they are not raised initially. If you are going to practice in civil litigation and you can memorize the content of any one of the Federal Rules, this should be the one.

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Rule 14

This Rule discusses the basics of third-party practice. We will discuss several other rules regarding the introduction and maintenance of multiple parties in a proceeding. In fact, it would be best to try to read Rules 14-22 and 24-25. However, reading Rule 14 will at least give you a solid introduction and view of how third-party practice works in the federal civil litigation system.

Documents for Review:

- Cross Complaint - State
- Third Party Summons – Federal

Complete Weekly Discussion 6

Module 7

Lecture 12: Monday, April 20, 2026

Next, we will begin our discussion of the trial itself. We will discuss jury selection and other events that happen early in a trial, such as opening statements and presentation of evidence. We will look at burdens of proof that apply in civil cases, including the generally applied “preponderance of the evidence” standard and discuss the interaction between the jury system and the burdens of proof. We will also look

at certain motions, such as orders to show cause and requests for judicial intervention that may precede or accompany litigation.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 6: Trial Practice

- A. Introduction to Trial Practice
- B. Basic Trial and Jury Selection
- C. Opening Statements and Burden of Proof

Cases and Statutes:

United State Constitution: Amendment VII

The Seventh Amendment guarantees the right to a jury trial in a civil case. Although the Amendment seems simple enough, its phrase “in suits at common law” has spurred mounds of analysis (including Supreme Court cases) trying to figure out exactly what that means.

Documents for Review:

- Request for Judicial Intervention- State
- Order to Show Cause - Federal
- Temporary Restraining Order -State
- Declaration for Temporary Restraining Order -State

Lecture 13: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

This class will continue our discussion of trial practice. We will discuss how trials are run, what the various stages of a trial are and how evidence may and may not be presented. We will also focus on the different stages of the trial itself and on the motions that are appropriate for each phase of the trial.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 6: Trial Practice

- D. Plaintiff’s Case-in-Chief
- E. Defendant’s Case-in-Chief
- F. Close of Evidence

Cases and Statutes:

Federal Rules of Evidence, Rules 801-804

These are the federal rules regarding the all-important issue of “hearsay.” Although the rules of evidence are not quite as important to a paralegal as they are to an attorney, since paralegals do not actually try cases, the hearsay rules may be an exception. Very often, cases can turn on whether somebody’s statement of what someone else said will be admissible. Therefore, for trial preparation and for settlement negotiations, it is important to understand that basics of what constitutes inadmissible hearsay.

Girden v. Sandals International

This case discussed the importance of proper jury instructions. Specifically, when is an improper jury instruction grounds for reversal of the jury verdict and when is it merely considered “harmless error”? This case will help bring this issue into focus and it provides a glimpse as to how courts analyze this question.

Documents for Review:

- Sample Trial Ready - List
 - Exhibit and Witness List - State
 - Notice of Appearance for Attorney - Federal
 - Judgment Abstract - State
-

Module 8

Lecture 14: Monday, April 27, 2026

In this class, we will focus on post-trial procedure. We will examine the motions that should and must be made at the close of a trial after the jury has delivered its verdict. We will look at the standard under which jury verdicts can be reversed and/or new trials can be ordered. We will also look briefly at the issue of enforcing judgments, including the methods by which a judgment can be collected.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 7: Post-Trial Practice, Appeals and Class Actions

- A. Introduction to Post-Trial Practice
- B. Post-Trial Motions
- C. Enforcement of Judgments

Cases and Statutes:

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Rules 59 and 60

Judgments rendered by courts and/or juries are supposed to be final and complete. However, sometimes, new evidence or changed circumstances dictate that verdicts should be re-examined. These rules provide the grounds under which judgments should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised. Understanding these rules is critical to the legal practitioner in the field of litigation, because they set forth the limits on what you can do for a client who has suffered an adverse judgment.

Documents for Review:

- Bill of Costs - Federal
- Certificate of Judgment Foreclosure by Sale - State
- Writ of Attachment before Judgment - Federal
- Writ of Execution – Federal

Lecture 15: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

The final class will continue our discussion of post-trial procedures. We will look at the appeals process, by which a party who disagrees with the court's rulings or the jury's verdict can appeal the case to a higher court. Finally, we will close with a discussion of class action lawsuits; what their roles are, how they are organized and what prerequisites there are to their filing.

Courseware Reading:

Chapter 7: Post-Trial Practice, Appeals and Class Actions

D. Appeals

E. Class Action Lawsuits

Cases and Statutes

Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure: Rule 4(a)

This rule sets forth the procedures and timelines relevant to the filing of an appeal. These are, of course, a starting point when discussing the civil appellate process.

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Rule 23

This federal rule discusses the class action lawsuit. "Mass torts" is a growing and very lucrative area of personal injury law. Because of the complexity involved in class actions lawsuits and because of the enormous potential ramifications that such suits have, following proper procedure in handling such suits is critical. Rule 23 is a great place to start when learning about the class action lawsuit.

Documents for Review:

- Bill of Costs - Federal
- Certificate of Judgment Foreclosure by Sale - State
- Writ of Attachment before Judgment - Federal
- Writ of Execution – Federal

The Final Exam can be taken at this point

All course assessments are due no later than Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM EASTERN TIME; that's EASTERN time. That means 8:59 PM Pacific time, 9:59 PM Mountain time, 10:59 PM Central time, etc.

CRESTPOINT EXTENSIONS POLICY

1) Extensions that conform to the rules below may be requested from the course materials page on the student website.

2) The maximum possible extension allowed is 15 days, save for truly exceptional circumstances.

3) Students must complete one or more legitimate assignments or exams to be eligible for any extension at all.

4) Requested extensions are granted automatically. It is not necessary to give any reason for the request. However, for each day of extension you request, you may be penalized 0.6% of your course grade, per day of extension. This is necessary to compensate for the advantage that students who take more time to do their work enjoy over those who complete their work on time. This also means that a short extension (e.g., a day or two) is unlikely to affect your grade, but a long extension (e.g., two weeks) is guaranteed to affect your grade.

5) The penalty referenced in Paragraph 4 may be waived by the Director of Education in extreme cases only. Extreme cases include circumstances beyond the control of the student that caused the student to be unable to complete work for *a significant period of time*. Circumstances such as being busy at work or at home, vacations, family occasions or power or internet outages lasting a few days, are foreseeable life circumstances. Extensions may be taken for these reasons (or, for that matter, for any reason at all), but the grade penalty discussed above applies. However, please note that the course deadline cannot be extended more than 15 days for any reason at all except in the most extreme cases.

Course Assignments

Assignment 1:

Assume that Bryan's Big Auctions, Inc. is a corporation with its principal place of business in Illinois. Robert is a proprietor of a small shop in Florida that sells used motorcycles. Bryan's calls Robert and offers to sell Robert 25 used motorcycles he has on his auction lot. Robert signs a contract with Bryan's Big Auctions, Inc. to purchase the motorcycles. Robert has never been to Illinois; all of his business with Bryan's Big Auctions, Inc. was done either online or via telephone. Robert, of course, knows that Bryan's Big Auctions, Inc. has its principal place of business in Illinois.

When Robert receives the motorcycles, he examines them and discovers that five of the bikes are damaged and do not conform to the contract, that states the bikes will be delivered in excellent condition. Robert pays Bryan for 20 bikes and refuses to pay for the five damaged bikes. Bryan disagrees with Robert and files a lawsuit in the circuit court in Illinois claiming that the bikes do conform to the contract and that Robert owes him the purchase price for all 25 bikes. Robert claims that the Illinois court has no personal jurisdiction over him, while Bryan claims that the state does have jurisdiction over him because he knowingly did business with an Illinois company. Assume that there is no applicable possibility of quasi in rem jurisdiction.

Please write an IRAC-style essay explaining whether Illinois likely to have personal jurisdiction over Robert.

NOTE: Please disregard the contract issue for purposes of this assignment. Focus on **personal jurisdiction**, only.

Assignment 2:

Caroline, a resident of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, files a lawsuit against Zoe, who lives in Wilmington, North Carolina. Caroline files her action in North Carolina state trial court. Her complaint reads, in whole:

"The Plaintiff alleges:

1. On or about April 5, 2021, Zoe walked into Caroline's office and viciously assaulted and battered Caroline, thereby causing to Caroline great pain and suffering.
2. On or about April 5, 2021, Zoe caused Caroline to be confined in a bound area, causing great physical and emotional suffering on the part of Caroline.
3. As a proximate result of Zoe's intentional and wrongful conduct, Caroline suffered physical and emotional injuries worth the sum of \$200,000.

Wherefore, Plaintiff demands that Zoe be forced to pay to Caroline the sum of \$200,000 in compensatory damages, \$1,000,000 in punitive damages and any other relief that the court deems just and proper."

The complaint is properly captioned, signed and served on Zoe.

Part 1) Zoe moves to dismiss the action on the ground that the complaint was not specific enough and therefore must be dismissed because it fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Under North Carolina case law, is Zoe correct? **This part of the assignment must be answered in an IRAC legal memo. Use properly cited North Carolina case law and statutes in your answer.**

Part 2) What else is missing from the complaint that makes it defective, aside from the issue addressed in part 1? **This part of the assignment can be answered in as little as one sentence.**