

Health Law Research

5101/16365 - Spring 2026 Syllabus

Wednesday, 9:00-9:50am, Synchronous Distance Education

Emily Lawson

Operations and Special Projects Librarian

Phone: 713-743-2305

Contact information

Email: ewoolard@central.uh.edu

Course Description: This is a specialized course on health law research. It will focus on federal and state primary legal materials related to health law, including relevant statutes, regulations, agency guidance and decisions, and case law. Secondary sources such as treatises and practice guides specific to health law will also be discussed. Both print and electronic resources related to health law research will be covered.

Learning Outcomes: After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Create a research plan and identify relevant issues for research
- Identify, locate, and use relevant secondary sources related to health law research topics
- Identify, locate, and use relevant primary law for health law research topics
- Develop effective legal research strategies and understand when research is correct and complete

Class Hours: We will meet on Wednesdays from 9:00 – 9:50am via Zoom.

Canvas: More information about the class schedule, readings, and assignments can be found on the Canvas site for this class. If you have questions about accessing Canvas, please let me know.

Assigned Materials: There is not a required textbook for this class. There will be materials assigned each week to help students prepare for class and they should be reviewed prior to the start of the class period for which they are assigned. Materials may include readings, videos, and/or CALI lessons. More information about these materials will be available on the Canvas site for this class.

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom.

Attendance: The Law Center has a minimum 80% attendance policy for students. Class attendance will be recorded for each class session. A student's nonadherence will be notified to the UHLC Office of Student Affairs.

Assessment Methods: Your grade will be based on research exercises (40%) and a final exam (60%). The research exercises are non-anonymous. The exam for this class will be a take-home exam and will be graded anonymously. More details about the exam will be provided in class. I also reserve the right to raise or lower grades one level (e.g., from a B to a B+ or a B to a B-) on the basis of class participation.

Honor Code: The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

AI Generated Work Product: Generative artificial intelligence is a form of machine learning that creates new and original output based on the data it has been trained on or has access to, employing algorithms to generate content in response to prompts. Examples of the technology include what are known as generative "large language models" (LLMs). Two well-known LLM implementations are ChatGPT and Claude. LLM output can include text, images, music, code, and more. This syllabus policy covers the textual output of generative LLMs (AI Generated Work Product)—which can include computer code or programs and human-language content. Because AI Generated Work Product can often mimic human intelligence, it could potentially be used as a substitute for a student's own work product. Such use is potentially problematic to the extent that it becomes a substitute for internalized student understanding of the material or creates a dependency on AI-Generated Work Product, which may be strictly prohibited in settings that include the bar examination. Subject to the exceptions immediately below, your continuing enrollment in this course constitutes your pledge not to generate or to use any AI-Generated Work Product—whether from yourself or others—in relation to any assessment in this course. The term "assessment" means any graded or ungraded work product for this course that is submitted to the instructor, presented in a class session, or used in an oral or written graded assessment for this course.

The following activities are exceptions to the immediately preceding paragraph. The intent of these exceptions is to allow use of AI Generated Work Product for specifically and narrowly defined activities in relation to this course:

- You may generate and use AI Generated Work Product for class preparation, although you must disclose the full extent of that use if your instructor asks. You may generate and use AI Generated Work Product for study supplements to aid with general understanding of course content. This could take different forms that include creating examples or explanations of a concept, generation of diagrams and flow charts, “gamification” of course content, flash cards for study, or sample questions and answers.
- You may generate and use AI Generated Work Product for an outline that summarizes the course content.
- You may generate and use AI Generated Work Product as expressly allowed by Professor Emily Lawson

Mental Health and Wellness Resources: The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students’ mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let’s Talk location in-person or virtually. Let’s Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed. Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct: Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids: The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by

visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdccenter@Central.UH.EDU. The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment. The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being. The Center for Student Advocacy and Community (CSAC) is where you can go if you need help but don't know where to start. CSAC is a "home away from home" and serves as a resource hub to help you get the resources needed to support academic and personal success. Through our Cougar Cupboard, all students can get up to 30 lbs of FREE groceries a week. Additionally, we provide 1:1 appointments to get you connected to on- and off-campus resources related to essential needs, safety and advocacy, and more. The Cougar Closet is a registered student organization advised by our office and offers free clothes to students so that all Coogs can feel good in their fit. We also host a series of cultural and community-based events that fosters social connection and helps the cougar community come closer together. Visit the CSAC homepage or follow us on Instagram: @uh_CSAC and @uhcupbrd. YOU belong here.

Women and Gender Resource Center: The mission of the WGRC is to advance the University of Houston and promote the success of all students, faculty, and staff through educating, empowering, and supporting the UH community. The WGRC suite is open to you. Stop by the office for a study space, to take a break, grab a snack, or check out one of the WGRC programs or resources. Stop by Student Center South room B12 (Basement floor near Starbucks and down the hall from Creation Station) from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Recording of Class: Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Syllabus Changes: Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email and/or Canvas.

Class dates and topics

Please see Canvas for information about readings and assignment dates.

Class Date	Topics Covered
Week 1 - Jan 21	Introduction to the course, health law, and the research process
Week 2 – Jan 28	Preliminary analysis and secondary sources
Week 3 – Feb 4	Issue analysis and secondary sources
Week 4 – Feb 11	Electronic legal research platforms
Week 5 – Feb 18	Electronic legal research platforms
Week 6 – Feb 25	Statutory research
Week 7 – March 4	Statutory research
Week 8 – March 11	Legislative history research
No class – March 18	No class – Spring Break
Week 9 – March 25	Administrative law research
Week 10 – April 1	Administrative law research
Week 11 – April 8	Administrative law research
Week 12 – April 15	Case law research
Week 13 – April 22	Citators
Week 14 – April 29	Current awareness and review