

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
SCHOOL OF LAW**

**Regulations for 9200:698
Individual Studies and Research
2-3 credit hours, letter-graded**

- ◆ **Prerequisite:** successful completion of first year of law studies (full-time) or second year (part-time)
- ◆ **Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to stimulate individual research of a problem mutually agreeable to the student and the faculty member with whom the student works. The student will be required to define clearly the problem (thesis) to be developed, and to analyze and critically evaluate legal authority and other reasoning in support of the student's thesis.

The problem should result in a written paper that approaches in form and quality a leading article in a leading law review. Special problems, projects or research may be taken for credit under supervision of a member of the faculty.

The course may be repeated to a total of six (6) credit hours. May be taken only with permission of Associate Dean – *submit attached application for approval.*

- ◆ **Requirements for Earning the General Writing Requirement (GWR):**

1. The GWR must be satisfied in conjunction with a course other than Individual Studies and Research (ISR) unless the Associate Dean determines that no course on an appropriate subject is available to the student. If such a course is available but the instructor does not offer GWR credit in conjunction with it, the student may satisfy the GWR in conjunction with ISR if the student has already taken or is taking the course. If such a course is not available, the student may satisfy the GWR in conjunction with the ISR alone. For purposes of this rule, a course is not available if (1) it is not to be offered before the student is expected to graduate; (2) the student is unable to enroll in it because the enrollment limited has been reached and it is not to be offered again before the student is expected to graduate; or (3) for other reasons of an unusual and compelling nature, the student is unable to take the seminar or other course.
2. The Associate Dean shall be the instructor of record for ISR, and shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure the responsibility for supervising GWR papers is distributed equitably among the members of the Law Faculty.

NOTE: Also refer to General Writing Requirement standards document if Individual Studies and Research paper is authorized to be written for GWR certification.

(The following statement was approved on February 11, 1971, and revisions were ratified from time to time, by the Faculty of the School of Law, for credit in 9200:698 Individual Studies and Research.)

- I. **Purpose of Course:** Credit may be given under the caption of 9200:698 Individual Studies and Research either for a term paper that meets the requirements set out below, or for the study of a particular subject matter under the tutelage of a member of the faculty. In the main, credit is undertaken in the former, rather than in the latter, category of projects.

The term paper should be viewed as a minor thesis. It must demonstrate both a capacity for scholarly research and creative intellectual effort, and satisfy high standards of prose composition. Capacity for scholarly research is demonstrated by making an original contribution to knowledge of the law or giving significant critical commentary. Any paper submitted as a term paper must have a minimum length of 30 pages if the course is taken for 2 credits or 45 pages if the course is taken for 3 credits. Papers must conform to requirements set out below unless the instructor approves an alternative form appropriate to the project.

The skills and capacities that a research project is designed to foster are:

1. Thoroughness in the discovery of available data;
2. Ability to analyze and synthesize legal and other authority;
3. Accuracy in the citation of sources and compliance with formal requirements;
4. Ability to write clearly, concisely, and creatively;
5. Understanding of the ideas and theories appearing in the research data;
6. Creative intellectual effort in the form of analysis and organization of the research data;

7. Demonstration of the capacity for critical judgment of ideas, theories, and generalization of subject matter, including the capacity to advance proposed solutions to problems presented by the research.

II. **Choice of Topic:** The initiative in the choice of a topic is to be exercised by the student enrolled for credit. The topic, however, must be approved by both the faculty member advising the student and the faculty member assigned to the course.

Upon approval, the student should prepare a short outline statement of the proposed research project. The outline statement should articulate the student's thesis, problem or issue; summarize the argument and authorities that the student will marshal in support of the thesis or solution to the problem or resolution of the issue; and propose an evaluatory conclusion.

Thus, most papers should endeavor to state a thesis or hypothesis (the "what"), the argument in support of the position (the "why"), and finally, ideas, theories, and generalizations concerning the subject matter, including a critique (the "so what").

The topic should be sufficiently well articulated and delimited so as to permit, in the limited number of credits that may be earned, the study of a topic in depth, in preference to an allusive, discursive, or comprehensive treatment.

III. Calendar:

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND DEADLINES ARE RELEVANT TO NON-GRADUATING (UNDERCLASS) STUDENTS.

Subject to variations expressly approved by the instructor in charge, the student must observe the following calendar.

Selection & Approval of Topic: Prior to registration, but not later than the second week of class

Approval of Outline: by Friday, sixth week of class

*Completed Paper: by November 25 for Fall Semester
by April 25 for Spring Semester
by August 25 for Summer I 10-week Session

**If Individual Studies and Research paper is for the General Writing Requirement (GWR), consult GWR guidelines for deadline information.*

For cause sufficient to the instructor in charge, students who have submitted an approved outline may request additional time to complete the project, and an "INC" (Incomplete) grade may be entered.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND DEADLINES PERTAIN TO GRADUATING STUDENTS:

1. The student must propose a topic and receive approval from the supervising faculty member **no later than July 5** of his or her last year in law school if the student is expected to graduate in **December** or **October 15** of his or her last year in law school if the student is expected to graduate in **May**.
2. A student who intends to satisfy the GWR in conjunction with ISR alone, as provided in paragraph (1) above, must enroll in ISR no later than the semester before his or her last semester in law school unless the Associate Dean determines that the unavailability of a course on an appropriate subject resulted from a change in circumstances that was not reasonably foreseeable by the student until it was too late for the student to comply with this requirement.
3. GWR papers must be submitted to the supervising faculty member for grading no later than November 15 if the student intends to graduate in December of the same year or March 31 if the student intends to graduate in May of the same year.
4. In unusual and compelling circumstances for which the student cannot reasonably be held responsible, the Associate Dean may waive the deadlines specified above.

Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, the GWR paper will be due the Monday of Reading Week in the term in which the course was taken. Since there is no Reading Week for Summer Session classes, the paper will be due on the Monday one week before the Summer class is over.

DUE DATE SUMMARY

	Enrollment	Topic Approval	Due Date
NON-SENIORS	At least 1 semester prior to planned graduation	At Instructor's Request	Monday of Reading Week in same semester course was taken; Summer session papers due Monday 1 weeks before end of Summer session
DECEMBER GRADUATES	Spring semester prior to December graduation	July 5 prior to December graduation	November 15 prior to December graduation
MAY GRADUATES	Fall semester prior to May graduation	October 15 prior to May graduation	March 31 prior to May graduation

IV. Required Form

- a. Paper – the project must be typewritten on good quality, white bond, letter-sized paper (8-1/2 x 11 inches).
- b. Typeface – Copy must be clean, dark enough to be easily readable, and accurately proofread. Symbols and diagrams must be accurate.
- c. Spacing –
 - i. The text of the paper must be double-spaced.
 - ii. Footnotes must be single-spaced and placed, in numerical sequence, at the end of the paper, or at the bottom of the pages.
- d. Margins – A margin of one and one-half inches (1-1/2 inches) must be left at the left-hand side and at the top of each page. There must be a margin of at least one inch (1 inch) at the right-hand side and the bottom of each page. Only one side of the paper may be used.
- e. Pagination – The Title Page is not numbered. Each page thereafter is to be numbered in Arabic numerals continuously throughout the paper (including appendices, exhibits, or other materials that appear at the end).
- f. Title page – The Title Page is to contain the information in the location as indicated on the sample page, which appears at the end.

V. **Style** – Although appropriate in other contexts, the style of the legal memorandum or brief is inappropriate for the term paper. Rather, the student should consult leading articles in leading law reviews.

VI. **Citations: Mode** – Students shall use a recognized form of legal citation (i.e. ALWD, Bluebook). The use of ALWD Citation is preferred.

VII. **Special Note on Quotations and Citations: Avoidance of Plagiarism** – The writer must scrupulously avoid plagiarizing the words and ideas of others. Therefore, in his/her research, the writer should carefully include all cited materials upon which he/she relies, and should carefully delineate his/her ideas and words from the ideas and words others.

Plagiarism may appear in several forms. Copying, in whole or in part, the work or words of another (whether or not copyrighted) is a form of plagiarism, unless the writer both cites the source of the material and uses quotation marks or the equivalent to indicate direct quotation.

The use of the exact words of another, without the use of quotations marks or the equivalent, constitutes plagiarism, even though the source of the words may be cited correctly.

Passing off as one's own the ideas of another is another form of plagiarism. When the ideas but not the exact words of another are used, full credit must be given by an appropriate citation. In other words, paraphrasing the work or works of another without proper citation to the source constitutes plagiarism.

For more information go to <http://www.uakron.edu/law/library/usefullinks.php#plagiarism>

VIII. **Grading** – The instructor of record shall enter a letter grade predicated upon the student's demonstrated ability to follow the guidelines, formal and substantive, that appear in these Regulations.

A failing grade ("F") may be entered for substantial departures from the calendar (Paragraph III, supra) or from standards established for citations (Paragraph VI, supra) or for the inability to meet minimally the substantive requirements that appear in Paragraph I, supra.

"INC" (Incomplete) grade may be entered as set forth in Paragraph III.

The grade of “PI” (Permanently Incomplete) or “W” (Withdrawn) may be entered, as set forth in regulations of The University of Akron.

IX. Research and Writing Guides – The official guides established by these Regulations are:

ALWD Citation Manual

Turabian, K.A., A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations.

The Turabian work provides guidelines when ALWD is silent; therefore, if there is a conflict between the two guides, ALWD will control.

Helpful to the writer are the following:

Campbell, W.G., Form and Style in Thesis Writing, 15 (1954).

Fowler, H.G., A Dictionary of Modern English Usage (Latest printing);

Garner, B.A., The Elements of Legal Style (Latest printing);

Roget, S.M. (Ed.), Thesaurus (Latest printing);

Strunk, Wm., Jr., and White, E.B., The Elements of Style (1962).

For examples of outstanding articles see F. Shapiro, The Most-Cited Law Review Articles (1987).

Attachment: Course Application

(03-02-71)

(09-05-78)

(12-07-78)

(10-20-80)

(05-08-86)

(11-13-86)

(12-10-87)

(03-09-89): Revised version effective June 5, 1989)

(05-26-89)

(12-12-91)

(09-09-93): Revised version effective Spring 1994 Semester)

(08-30-94): Revised version effective Spring 1994 Semester)

(03-14-02): Revised version effective Summer I 2002 Semester)

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW

Application to Enroll in Individual Studies and Research, 9200:698

Students intending to enroll in Individual Studies and Research must first have approval of both the instructor listed on the schedule of classes and the advisor selected by the student. The advisor should be a law faculty member who has expertise in the topic of the student's paper.

Individual Studies and Research is a paper course available for 2 or 3 credit hours. This class is letter graded. The length of the paper for 2 credits is 30 pages (including end notes) or for 3 credits is 45 pages (including end notes. Please refer to the Individual Studies guidelines for further details.

Enrollment for Individual Studies and Research will be authorized AFTER this application is approved by the professor listed on the class schedule and the advisor. Please return this signed application to the Associate Dean's mailbox.

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: Home: _____ Work: _____

Student ID#: _____

Accumulative Grade Point Average: _____

Email address: _____

I would like to take this class for: (check one box per line)

2 credits _____ OR 3 credits _____

Fall _____ OR Spring _____ OR Summer I 10-week _____ Semester

Please write a brief explanation on the back of this sheet as to why you wish to enroll in Individual Studies and Research instead of a formal course. Give some indication of facts that would suggest that you have the ability and discipline to successfully complete this project without the structure offered by a traditional class.

My Individual Studies and Research Paper topic is: _____

The instructor I wish to use as my advisor for this paper will be: _____

Do you want permission for your paper to be considered for General Writing Requirement credit? _____

If yes, why? *[The Associate Dean must grant permission for the GWR to be enrolled with ISR. There is no guarantee that permission will be granted. His/Her decision is predicated upon the rules set forth in the GWR guidelines document.]*

Individual Studies and Research Paper Due Dates: *

I am registered for this class in the:

My paper will be due on or before:

Fall Semester

November 25

Spring Semester

April 25

Summer I 10-Week Session

August 25

**If Individual Studies and Research paper is for the General Writing Requirement (GWR), consult GWR guidelines for deadline information.*

Failure to meet a deadline is cause for the final grade to be reduced at the instructor advisor's discretion. Regular contact with the advisor must be maintained, and any adjustments to due dates should be sought in advance and confirmed in writing.

The following deadlines have been established (required in order to gain approval from the Associate Dean):

Detailed Outline: ____/____/____ Full Draft: ____/____/____ Final Copy: ____/____/____

Advisor's (Instructor's) Signature and Date

Student's Signature and Date

Approved: _____

Instructor of Record's (Associate Dean's) Signature

Please submit this form to the Law Dean's Office after obtaining instructor's signature.