

**Criminal Law
Lecture 3 Study Guide**

What does it mean to say that “The United States is a common law country?” _____

What are “Primary Sources?” Provide examples. _____

Define *Administrative Law*: _____

Define *Stare Decisis*: _____

What effect do high court decisions have on the lower courts? _____

What is a “case in point?” _____

Define *Mandatory Authority*: _____

Define *Persuasive Authority*: _____

Why is it important to consult court decisions when doing legal research on statutes? _____

What are *session laws*? _____

If unofficial publications are not really primary sources, why do lawyers like them so much?

1. _____

2. _____

What is the role of a trial court? _____

Define “finder of fact”? _____

How do appeals courts usually function? _____

What is a “court of last resort”? _____

What is the “opinion” of the court? _____

What is a “writ of certiorari”? _____

What is the difference between *holding* and *dictum*? _____

What is a “caption” in a court case? _____

How do the party names in an appeals case sometimes “flip-flop”? _____

How are cases with only one party styled? _____

What is the “docket number”? How is it useful in legal research? _____

What is the citation? How is it interpreted? _____

What is the “syllabus” in a court case? _____

What are headnotes? How are they useful in legal research? _____

What is included in the “opinion” section of a court case? _____

What are “nominative reporters?” _____

What is “U.S. Reports?” How is it cited? _____

What is “U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers’ Edition”? How is it cited?

What is West’s “Supreme Court Reporter”? _____

What is West’s Key Number System? _____

What is LexisNexis? _____

What are the advantages of electronic databases in legal research? _____

What are the intermediate courts of appeal called on the federal level? How many are there? Which one has jurisdiction in Arkansas?

What is the Federal Reporter? How is it cited?

Define *Jurisdiction* (for Courts): _____