

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
20010-11 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>

COURSE	Law 322 Family Law
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Trudi Brown
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2010
CLASS TIMES	See schedule
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	None

## OBJECTIVES

This is an introductory course into a complex and constantly changing area of law.

- It aims to stimulate your interest in family law and the various legal and social issues involved
- To convey the basic principles that underlie and inform state regulation of families
- To enable you to find relevant legislation and case law and identify current family law issues in order to make persuasive family law arguments
- To introduce procedural and other practice uses unique to family law, and
- Provide you with an opportunity to examine and discuss some of the theory that shapes and changes family law in Canada

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will survey the legal framework surrounding familial relationships and family breakdown in Canada. We will cover the legal framework of starting the relationship, defining the family, custody issues, domestic violence and power imbalance, child protection, child support, spousal support, matrimonial property, the Divorce Act and some of the processes including collaborative law, mediation, negotiation and court applications.

We will discuss the role of the state in families and the changing definitions of "families" and their connectivity to the community. The province may be in the midst of a significant change in its matrimonial property legislation and we will look at what has been and what may be in the future.

## METHODOLOGY

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures, class discussion, and small group work. The goal is to have an active and engaged classroom environment. It is our expectation that students will have read and thought about the assigned materials before each class and will be prepared to participate in debates, client interviews, mock court applications and the like.

There will be no taping of lectures without prior permission.

## EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- A final, open-book exam for 60% of the grade
- In-class role plays, in-class participation and projects for 20% of the grade
- Take-home essay for 20% of the grade

June 17, 2010

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<sup>1</sup> The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is *subject to change*. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services ([lawmaass@uvic.ca](mailto:lawmaass@uvic.ca)).