

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2010-11 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION¹

COURSE	Law 343 A03 Communications Law and Policy
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Hank Intven and Hudson Janisch
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2011
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the law and policy framework that governs the electronic communications media that enable today's 'information age'. The primary focus is on the regulatory framework for (1) Canadian telecommunications service providers that offer telephony, cable TV, broadband Internet, satellite, mobile and fixed wireless services such as WiFi and WiMax, and (2) Canadian broadcasting services, including over-the-air television & radio, satellite and cable TV services. Related issues, such as the transition to Internet and wireless- based New Media content services and broadcast retransmission copyright will also be covered.

OBJECTIVES

Electronic communications, including telecommunications, broadcasting and new media (i.e. Internet-based) communications are becoming increasingly pervasive in the national and global communities of the 21st century. An understanding of the legal and policy framework governing such communications will assist law students to understand and deal with the legal issues faced by citizens, business and governments in today's information age. The course will also provide working examples of the application of public administrative law and government policy to a key area of Canadian society.

METHODOLOGY

Although the course will be delivered predominantly by video conference from Toronto, it is expected that both instructors will be available for the introductory session, as well as for a wrap-up session towards the end of the course. Professor Janisch will also be present in person for several other sessions during the early part of the course. The majority of the 3-hour once-a-week sessions will be devoted to presentations delivered by the instructors in an interactive format, with questions and comments encouraged.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Up to 70% of the marks for the course will be awarded for a research paper on a topic approved by the instructors and based on an approved outline. A list of suggested research paper topics will be circulated. With the express prior permission of the instructors, a limited number of students may be authorized to write and submit their research paper to fulfill the Faculty's major research paper requirements. There will be one or more review sessions to discuss subject matter covered to date in the course. A short (3-5 page) summary will be produced by each student for the review sessions, on a topic assigned by the instructors. Up to 15% will be awarded for this summary. Up to 15% will be awarded for class participation that demonstrates an understanding of the required readings for the course.

March 23, 2010

¹ 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).