

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

COURSE	Law 353A – Environmental Law Centre Clinic
UNIT VALUE	2.0 Units (4 hours per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Deborah Curran
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2011
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	Full Year course (both terms mandatory)

OBJECTIVES

The practice of environmental law is evolving rapidly in this century. Concerns about global problems like climate change are spurring governments to take new regulatory action, and are creating new causes of action and practice areas in law. At the same time, community organizations, citizens and environmental groups are becoming more sophisticated in challenging unsustainable land development practices and decisions that have an adverse impact on human health. The focus of environmental law no longer rests with the natural environment. It now includes proactive sustainability strategies such as green buildings, demand management and joint decision-making. These approaches to public interest environmental law significantly expand the practice areas involved in this approach to law, and offer new opportunities for the legal profession to integrate sustainability considerations into traditional practice areas.

The purpose of this course is to complement Law 353 Environmental Law Centre Clinic by:

- becoming familiar with the emerging areas of public interest sustainability law;
- understanding the practice skills required for sustainability law;
- acquiring law office, case management and planning skills;
- developing legal writing, presentation and team work skills in class and by working with clients involved in public interest environmental law issues or disputes; and,
- becoming familiar with a range of public interest environmental law issues, players, and strategies for using the legal system to pursue sustainability goals.

METHODOLOGY

Classroom discussion, presentations, practice exercises, group projects, negotiation simulation, leading a class, and work with a client.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The course will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students must attend all classes, excusable only for medical, family or other pressing reasons. Permission to miss a class should be obtained ahead of time from the instructor or Associate Dean.

Unexcused absences may be grounds for failure. Students must:

1. Participate in class discussions and activities
2. Make a presentation in a public setting
3. Write a legal opinion and a short advocacy article
4. Lead a classroom topic in Term II
5. Work with the class as a team on a group project (2 weeks)
6. Negotiate a resource management dispute
7. Manage one or more client files.

March 29, 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).