

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

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| COURSE | Law 388: Advanced Legal Research and Writing |
| UNIT VALUE | 1.5 Units (3 hours per week) |
| INSTRUCTOR | Tim Richards |
| TERM OFFERED | Spring 2011 |
| CLASS TIMES | See Schedule |
| PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES | None |

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Law 388 provides students with the knowledge and skills essential to professional legal research. It builds on the research and writing skills learned in first year law. Students explore a wide range of research sources, legal and non legal, with an emphasis upon computer assisted legal research. This course provides a foundation for success in the Legal Research and Writing component of the Professional Legal Training Course (B.C.).

The components of the course are as follows.

- (1) Legal Research
 - a. A conceptual understanding of legal research which will enable students to research any legal topic and research the law in Canadian as well as non Canadian jurisdictions.
 - b. A focus on computer assisted legal research of primary sources of law, both legislation and case law.
 - c. A focus on research using secondary sources of law.
- (2) Legal Writing
 - a. A conceptual understanding of legal writing.
 - b. An analysis of practical ways to improve legal writing, developed through the competition of exercises to improved legal writing.

The skills covered in the components of the course will be developed through exercises that provide practice in legal research.

METHODOLOGY

The course will employ a combination of lectures, exercises, and tutorials. The lectures will present concepts and theory with respect to legal research and legal writing, explain the structure of secondary sources. The in class exercises will provide practice in developing legal research and legal writing skills. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with the material through asking questions and engaging in class discussions. Several guest speakers will present to the class on specific aspects of legal research and writing.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

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| Major Research Paper | 50% |
| Research Plan | 15% |
| Legislation Quiz | 15% |
| Case Law Quiz | 15% |
| Class Participation | 5% |

April 12, 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).