

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2011-12 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION¹

COURSE	Law 322 Family Law
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Gillian Calder
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2011
CLASS TIMES	See schedule
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	None

OBJECTIVES

Family law is a complex and constantly changing area of law. As such, this course cannot be comprehensive in its scope, or in its treatment of any particular family law issue. Instead, this course aims to do the following:

- stimulate your interest in family law and the various legal and social issues in the area of familial relationships;
- convey basic principles that underlie and inform state regulation of families through law;
- enable you to find relevant legislation and case law and to identify current family law issues in order to make persuasive and effective family law arguments;
- introduce procedural and other practice issues unique to family law; and
- provide you with an opportunity to examine and discuss the law reform and theoretical debates that shape and inform family law in Canada.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the legal framework surrounding familial relationships and family breakdown in Canadian society. Topics include cohabitation, marriage, adoption, child protection, separation, divorce, child custody and access, property division, spousal and child support. Themes include state regulation of families through law; the relationship of law to social change such as shifts in familial forms; the use of social context in legal argument; socio-economic and cultural implications of family law; and the relevance of factors such as gender, sexual orientation, culture, class and race to family law. Particular attention is paid to the impact of family law on Indigenous families in British Columbia. Family law is a wide and rapidly evolving area of law. Therefore, the course is designed to provide an overview of key legal issues in each topic, many of which may be explored in advanced course offerings.

METHODOLOGY

In order to invigorate the ethical imaginations of students, this course will be taught through a combination of lectures, class discussion, small group work and take-home exercises. The goal is to have an active and engaged class room environment. In this regard, it is my expectation that students will have read and thought about the assigned materials before they come to each class. Each class will be taught on the assumption that students are prepared to discuss the assigned materials.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

1. Essay – 40%

Students will be required to write an essay not to exceed 10 pages. Students will be expected to write on a topic of their choice that critically examines an issue raised in Volume One of the materials. Students may do independent research, depending on their topic, in order to explore an aspect of family law that is engaged by our discussion of the legal regulation of the family in Canadian law.

2. Take-home examination – 60%

The second component of the evaluation for this course will be open-book, take-home exam, due at the assigned date for the Family Law exam not to exceed 15 pages. The exam will enable students to draw on materials assigned for the year, but will emphasize Volume II materials. The exam will be solely based on a hypothetical problem.

May 26, 2011

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).