

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

COURSE	Law 388 A02 Advanced Legal Research and Writing
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Tim Richards
TERM OFFERED	Fall 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

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

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).