

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**2011-12 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	Law 343 A02 Municipal Law and Sustainability
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Deborah Curran
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Spring 2012
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See Schedule
<b>PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES</b>	None

## **MAJOR EDUCATIONAL GOALS/COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Local governments, primarily municipalities and regional districts, have broad authority to regulate a wide range of activities in communities. They also operate many services and own substantial assets. Local governments are arguably the most visible form of government as they regulate the physical development of cities, towns, and the countryside, and take care of day-to-day services such as water, liquid and solid waste, business regulation, and parks. The way in which local governments exercise this broad authority has a significant impact on the sustainability of communities.

Municipal law explores the parameters of the legislative, administrative and quasi-judicial powers of local governments. The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to, and understanding of, the primary principles of municipal law in Canada, with a particular focus on the legislative regime in B.C. The central focus of the course will be on the diverse powers of municipal governments, and how the courts review and define municipal action. Consideration will also be given to the structural problems in the operation of local governments. Roughly half of the course is devoted to land use planning, sustainable development, and related issues.

## **SUBJECT MATTER TO BE COVERED**

- (1) The nature of local government and judicial control.
- (2) Statutory basis and governance.
- (3) Business regulation and licensing.
- (4) Taxation and tort.
- (5) Growth management and land use planning.
- (6) Zoning and land use control.
- (7) Current issues in municipal law.

## **TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

Lectures, classroom discussion, short presentations and a field trip. It is expected that students will have read assigned materials prior to class and will be prepared to discuss them. In addition to the cases, articles and legislation set out in the syllabus, a lecture outline and overview of each topic are posted on the course web site for most weeks.

## **EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

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|----|--|-----|
| 1. | Short presentation                                     | 10% |
| 2. | Paper  | 45% |
| 3. | Open book final examination (on ½ the course material) | 45% |

*June 6, 2011*

<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto:lawmaass@uvic.ca)).