

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

COURSE	Law 343 A07 Access to Justice (Cross listed with DR 510)
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
INSTRUCTOR	M. Jerry McHale
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2012
CLASS TIMES	Monday, 5:00 – 8:00 PM
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	None

OBJECTIVES AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the fact of diminishing access to justice and its far-reaching implications for the public, the justice system and society as a whole. The aim is to give students both a theoretical framework and practical information to help them recognize, understand and respond to access issues. This will be done by exploring:

- purpose, ideals and practical functions of our justice system
- historical context and the causes, scale and consequences of unmet legal needs and the contemporary access to justice problem
- reform efforts of government, the courts, practitioners and other justice system participants to respond to unmet legal needs and to enhance access to justice, through mediation and other collaborative dispute resolution processes, through changes to procedural and substantive law, and through public education, legal assistance programs and technology
- how access issues are forcing changes to legal ethics, to legal service delivery models and to traditional approaches to defining, analyzing and responding to legal problems

METHODOLOGY

The course content will be presented through lectures with class discussions. Students will have the opportunity to participate and critically reflect on the material in class. There will be some practical exercises and expert guest speakers from time to time. Required readings will be focused, and more extensive optional reading material will be identified for those who want it. Lesson plans will be posted on Moodle prior to each class.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

There will be two evaluation components:

1. Research paper (75% of the final grade)
 - 15- 20 pages long: 4000- 5000 words.
 - The paper topics will develop and expand upon themes or issues covered in the lectures. Students can choose topics in consultation with the instructor
2. Reflective journal entries (20% of the final grade) consisting of two short papers, each 600 - 700 words developing themes from the lectures and course materials.
3. class participation and engagement (5% of the final grade)

October 25, 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, Academic and Students (lawmaass@uvic.ca).