

**Course Outline**

**COURSE:** LAWS 2908A Legal Studies Methods & Theory 1

**PREREQUISITES:** LAWS 1000 and Honours Standing

**TERM:** Fall 2008

**CLASS:** Day & Time: Thursdays 8:30-11:30  
Room: B146 LA (Loeb)

**INSTRUCTOR:** Zeina Bou-Zeid, PhD  
**(SESSIONAL)**

**CONTACT:** Office: C476 Loeb  
Office Hrs: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 and Thursdays 11:30-12:30  
[Zeina\\_Bou-Zeid@carleton.ca](mailto:Zeina_Bou-Zeid@carleton.ca)  
Email:

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"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008, for December examinations, and March 6, 2009, for April examinations." With regard to accommodations for religious obligations and pregnancy, please see [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom\\_policy.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html)

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**COURSE OBJECTIVE AND CONTENT**

The course is designed to assist students in developing legal research skills and techniques in traditional and electronic research methodologies and in applying those skills and techniques. The focus will be law-related and social-science related resources. Students will have an opportunity to develop these skills and techniques in the classroom and through participation in labs and will apply these skills and techniques through developing and writing a research proposal. Students will require a Quicklaw account.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 6th ed. (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2006).

Available at the Carleton University Bookstore.

Note: Other required readings will include articles placed on reserve in the library. Students should check WebCT regularly for course updates and assignments.

**RESERVE READINGS**

- Bano, Samia “Standpoint, Difference and Feminist Research” in Reza Banakar & Max Travers eds., *Theory and Method in Socio-Legal Research* (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2005) pp.91-111. (article on RSV)
- Booth, Wayne, Gregory Colomb & Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003) (Book on RSV)
- Dawson, T.B. “Legal Research in a Social Science Setting: the Problem of Method” (1992) 14 *Dal. L.J.* 445. (article on Reserve)
- Devlin, Richard F., “Mapping Legal Theory” (1994) 32 *Alberta Law Review* 602. (article on RSV)
- Fitzgerald, Maureen F., *Legal Problem Solving: Reasoning, Researching and Writing*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Toronto: Butterworths Canada Ltd., 2001). (selected pages/ on Reserve)
- Posner, Richard, “The Decline of Law as an Autonomous Discipline: 1962-1987” (1987) 100 *Harvard Law Review*, 761. (article on RSV)
- Waddams, S.M., *Introduction to the Study of Law*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: Carswell, 1997). (selected pages/ on Reserve)

**EVALUTATION SCHEME**

<b><u>Evaluation Component</u></b>	<b><u>Value</u></b>	<b><u>Assigned</u></b>	<b><u>Due</u></b>
Class Participation	10%		(ongoing)
Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography	15%	Sep. 4	Oct. 2
Case Law Assignment	15%	Oct. 2	Oct. 23
Statutes Assignment	15%	Oct. 23	Nov. 13
Research Proposal	45%	Oct. 23	Dec. 1

**Course Components****Participation - 10%**

This course is structured as a seminar in which individual participation is an important component of the course. You are expected to contribute to in-class discussions and come to class having read the assigned readings. Your participation mark is based upon actual attendance in classes and labs and your contribution to group discussions and presentations.

**Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography - 15%**

In this first assignment you are required to provide a properly formulated research question (subject areas will be provided to you). You must also appropriately cite and annotate two relevant secondary sources that are directly relevant to your research question. All citations must conform to the citation style set out in the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*.

**Case Law Assignment - 15%**

In this assignment you are required to identify relevant cases and discuss their importance to your project. This assignment allows you to demonstrate your ability to find relevant cases. You will also be required to provide a case brief for one of the cases. All citations must conform to the citation style set out in the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*.

Statutes and Related Materials Assignment - 15%

In this assignment you are required to identify relevant statutes and government documents and discuss their importance to your project. This assignment allows you to demonstrate your ability to find these relevant materials. All citations must conform to the citation style set out in the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*.

Research Proposal - 45%

This final assignment asks you produce a final research proposal incorporating and expanding on all the research that you have done throughout the term. You should also reflect upon the interdisciplinary dimensions of the research question and how this will affect your approach to the research. All relevant journal articles, case law, statutes and government documents must be properly cited. You will be evaluated on your ability to propose a project that is clearly defined and provides an analysis of the benefits of integrating social science and legal research methods.

More detailed instructions for assignments will be provided in class.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Any written work submitted must be typewritten, double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font with standard 1 inch margins. All assignments **must** include a title page with the course code, your name and your student number and my name on it. Title pages, bibliographies and endnotes are **not** counted in calculating page length for an assignment.

**All written assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.**

All assignments must be handed in at the Law Department office drop box by 4:00 pm on the due date or to me personally in class. Assignments will not be accepted by e-mail or under the door of the sessional instructors' office.

Students must keep a hard copy of anything submitted for marking for 3 months after submission.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Late assignments will be marked down by one-half letter grade (e.g. B to B-, B- to C+) for each day the assignment is late. Assignments must be submitted within 6 days of the due date. If they are submitted after 6 days they will receive a grade of F. Requests for an extension must be made to me prior to the due date and will only be considered if there is an extreme reason (requests must be accompanied by supporting documentation).

**COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1.	Sep. 4	Introduction to course and overview.  Introduction to Research Topics (3 choices)  Assignment # 1 (Assigned) Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography	None
2.	Sep. 11	Research Design: Creating a Research Problem and Research Question  Finding and Using Journal Articles  Citation: Secondary Sources, Footnotes/Endnotes and Bibliography	<i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation: General Rules/Chapter 1 &amp; Secondary Sources/Chapter 6</i>  <b>WebCT:</b> “Refugees & Racism in Canada” by Anthony Richmond  <b>Reserve Readings</b> Booth: Chapters 3,4,5,6. (Pages 40-71 & 75-107)
3.	Sep. 18	Legal Studies in an Interdisciplinary Setting	<b>Reserve Readings:</b> Dawson,B.T. “Legal Research in a Social Science Setting” Waddams, “Introduction to the Study of Law” Posner, “The Decline of Law...” (article also on WebCT)
4.	Sep. 25	The Role of Theory & Method in Socio-legal Studies	<b>Reserve Readings:</b> Devlin, “Mapping Legal Theory” (article also on WebCT) Bano, “Standpoint, Difference & Feminist Research”
5.	Oct. 2	Case Law: Reading and Briefing Cases (How to Read a Case/Case Brief Exercise)  Introduction to Canadian Abridgement/Canadian Encyclopedic Digest  Citation: Cases  <b>Assignment # 1 DUE</b> (in class) Assignment # 2 (Assigned) Case Law Assignment	<i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation: Cases/Chapter 3</i>  <b>WebCT:</b> 1. <b>Cranston Case</b> (bring a copy to class/do not read). 2. <b>Childs v. Desormeaux Case</b> (read and bring a copy to class.
6.	Oct. 9	Lab # 1: Finding Cases -- Westlaw & eCarswell  <b>Time: 9:00am</b> <b>Location: Room 235 MacOdrum Library</b> Guest: Michelle DeVidi, Law Librarian	None
7.	Oct. 16	Lab # 2: Finding Cases -- Quicklaw  <b>Time: TBA</b> <b>Location: TBA</b>	Handouts available in class

8.	Oct. 23	<p>The Legislative Process and Researching Statutes (Locating Statutes)</p> <p>Citation: Statutes</p> <p><b>Assignment # 2 DUE</b> (in class)</p> <p>Assignment # 3 (Assigned) Statutes Assignment Assignment # 4 (Assigned) Research Proposal Assignment</p>	<p><i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation: Statutes/Chapter 2.</i></p> <p><b>Reserve Readings</b> Fitzgerald p. 105-123</p>
9.	Oct. 30	<p>Government Documents (Locating and Using Government Documents)</p> <p>Citation: Government Documents</p>	<p><i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation: Government Documents/Chapter 4.</i></p>
10.	Nov. 6	<p>Conducting Additional Research and Communicating Your Findings:</p> <p>(Archival, Interviews, News Media) (United States and International Legal Research Strategies)</p>	<p><b>Reserve Readings</b> Fitzgerald p. 253-270</p>
11.	Nov. 13	<p>Preparing to write your Research Proposal</p> <p><b>Assignment # 3 DUE</b> (in class)</p>	None
12.	Nov. 20	<p>Group Work and Presentations: The Research Process</p>	None
13.	Nov. 27	<p>Course Overview</p> <p><b>Assignment # 4: (DUE: Dec 1, 2008) Research Proposal</b></p>	None