

**Course Outline**

<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>LAWS 2908 A – Approaches in Legal Studies I</b>
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Summer 2011</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	<b>LAWS 1000</b>
<b>CLASS:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time: Monday &amp; Wednesday 2:35 – 5:25 pm</b> <b>Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)</b>	<b>Shelley Appleby-Ostroff</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<b>Office: Loeb C476 (Contract Instructors' Office)</b> <b>Office Hrs: Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00 am and by appointment</b> <b>Email: Please use WebCT e-mail for this course</b>

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"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary Letters of Accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible, but no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first test requiring accommodations. For further information, please see: [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom\\_policy.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html) . If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by June 10, 2011 for Spring term exams and July 29, 2011 for Summer term exams. For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: [www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)

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*Welcome to LAWS 2908 A – Approaches in Legal Studies I. I look forward to working with you this term. Below you will find information on the organization of the course as well as a description of class readings, assignments, and course policies. Please read this course outline carefully. We will discuss it during the first class.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to assist you in developing and applying legal research skills and techniques. Through class lectures, labs and small assignments, you will learn how to design a research question, create a research plan as well as find and critically evaluate the primary and secondary information sources available to legal researchers. You will also learn proper legal citation techniques. By the end of the course you will have the critical and technical ability to find, analyze and apply the information necessary to prepare a formal research proposal in legal studies.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Margaret Kerr et al., *Legal Research: Step by Step*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2009) [Kerr]; and

McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Scarborough: Carswell, 2006) [McGill Guide]

## **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

Wayne C. Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008) [Booth]; and

Fitzgerald, Maureen F., *Legal Problem Solving: Reasoning, Research and Writing*, 4th ed. (Toronto: LexisNexis, 2007) [Fitzgerald]

All four texts are available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore and are on reserve in the library.

## **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US**

I will be happy to meet with you individually at any point during the term to talk about how the course is going for you. My office hours are on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00 in the contract instructors' office (Loeb C476). If this time is not convenient for you, we can set up an appointment. As well, feel free to e-mail me through WebCT about any questions or concerns you might have regarding the course during the term. Please also check WebCT regularly for information updates concerning lectures, labs, readings and assignments.

## **EVALUATION**

### **(All course components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)**

The course is organized around reading, researching, writing, and discussion, and the course's grading scheme reflects this approach. There are a series of written assignments designed to develop your ability to research and present the results of your research in a coherent and convincing manner. You will also be graded on class attendance and participation. More detailed information about each of the assignments will be provided in class.

Grading for the course will be broken down as follows:

<u>Course Component</u>		<u>Due Date</u>
Class Participation (attendance & class discussion)	15%	Ongoing
Initial Research Statement	10%	May 16
Annotated Bibliography	10%	May 25
Research Log	5%	June 6 & June 21
Research/Writing Conference	5%	To be determined
Case Law Assignment	10%	June 1
Legislation Assignment	10%	June 8
Research Proposal	35%	
- group presentation (5%)		June 13
- draft proposal & peer conferencing (5%)		June 15
- final written proposal (25%)		June 21

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance in class is required. If you are absent from a class, you will be required to make arrangements to submit any assigned work due that day and ensure that you are fully prepared for the next class.

### **Submission of Assignments**

Please hand in all written assignments by the date they are due. I will grant extensions only under serious circumstances, and only if you contact me before the due date to explain your situation.

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments must be handed in at the start of class on the due date and will be returned during class. If you will not be present in class on the day an assignment is due, please deposit a copy of the completed assignment in the Law Department Drop Box at Loeb C473 by the beginning of class. Assignments submitted electronically, or slipped under the Contract Instructors' office door, will not be accepted. Please keep a hard copy of all assignments submitted as a backup until your final grade is confirmed.

### **Academic Integrity and Academic Offences**

The University's policy concerning plagiarism and other instructional offences is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar and can be found at: <http://www.carleton.ca/calendars/ugrad/0910/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html> Please ensure that you understand this policy. In particular, you should note that it is an instructional offence to submit "substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors from all courses involved. Minor modifications and amendments, such as changes of phraseology in an essay or paper, do not constitute a significant and acceptable reworking of an assignment." You should also note that it is an instructional offence to commit plagiarism, which is defined in the policy as "presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own."

All written work must be yours alone and any ideas you include in your work which are not original to you should be properly referenced. You should familiarize yourself with the department's policies on proper referencing and citation contained in the Department of Law's *Legal Style Sheet for Term Papers* available on the department's website.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. Any suspected violations of the university's policies or regulations will be immediately reported to the Dean.

### **Policy and Procedure Statement**

The Department of Law's Policy and Procedure Statement forms part of this course outline. The Statement contains important information on topics such as the submission of assignments, due dates in course outlines, offences, writing skills and the use of language, prerequisites, course selection, responsibility for ensuring enrollment in classes and the review of grades. **Please ensure that you read the Policy and Procedure Statement carefully.**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **1. Initial Research Statement (10%)**

This assignment will require you to write an initial one-page research statement that includes a brief explanation of your research topic, your research question, and a brief explanation of the significance of your research. Your research topic will be used to complete the rest of the assignments in the course, including your final research proposal. You may be required to resubmit your Initial Research Statement if it is not acceptable.

**Due: May 16 at the beginning of class**

**2. Annotated Bibliography (10%)**

This assignment will require you to locate and analyze secondary sources relevant to your research topic, create a bibliography of those sources (with proper citation), and annotate at least six of them.

**Due: May 25 at the beginning of class**

**3. Research Log (5%)**

Throughout the course, you will be required to keep an ongoing Research Log that includes your research plan, a summary of your research process, a record of time spent, an evaluation of what you are learning about the research process as well as a list of authorities you plan to use for your research project. You will be required to submit your Research Log twice – once part way through the term and again with your final Research Proposal.

**Due: June 6 & 21 at the beginning of class**

**4. Research/Writing Conference (5%)**

You will be required to meet with me once individually during the course to discuss your research and writing progress.

**Due: To be determined**

**5. Case Law Assignment (10%)**

This assignment will require you to locate at least four cases relevant to your research topic and prepare a Table of Cases (with proper citation). You will also be required to draft a Case Brief of one of the cases.

**Due: June 1 at the beginning of class**

**6. Legislation Assignment (10%)**

This assignment will require you to locate statutes, regulations and other government documentation relevant to your research topic and prepare a Table of Legislation (with proper citation). You will also be required to describe and analyze the major legislation in your topic area.

**Due: June 8 at the beginning of class**

**7. Research Proposal (35%)**

This assignment will require you to develop an 8-10 page proposal for a research project (with proper citation) that incorporates and expands on all the research you have done throughout the term. As part of this assignment, you will be required to deliver an oral presentation of your proposal to a small group of students in the class and participate in a peer conference about your draft proposal.

<b>Group Presentations (5%)</b>	-	<b>June 13</b>
<b>Draft Proposal &amp; Peer Conferencing (5%)</b>	-	<b>June 15</b>
<b>Final Written Proposal (25%)</b>	-	<b>June 21 - (in the Law Department Drop Box at Loeb C473 by 4:00 pm)</b>

**Class Participation (15%)**

This course is structured as a seminar. As a result, individual participation and attendance are essential components. You are expected to read the assigned readings before class and be prepared to contribute to in-class discussions. Your participation mark is based on attendance in class and labs as well as your ongoing preparedness, participation, and contribution to class discussions, exercises, and presentations.

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

1. **May 9** INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF COURSE
2. **May 11** RESEARCH DESIGN AND INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL LITERATURE  
**Required Readings**  
Booth, cc. 3 & 4  
Kerr, c.1  
Fitzgerald, c. 4
3. **May 16** RESEARCHING SECONDARY SOURCES & INTRODUCTION TO CASE LAW  
**Required Readings**  
Kerr, cc. 4, 8 & 14  
Fitzgerald, c. 6  
McGill Guide, c. 6  
**Recommended Readings**  
Fitzgerald, c. 9  
**Initial Research Statement Due**
4. **May 18** RESEARCHING CASE LAW LAB (Westlaw & eCarswell)  
**Location: Room 102 in the MacOdrum Library**  
**Guest: Marilyn Rennick, Law Research Librarian**  
**Required Readings**  
Kerr, cc.11 & 17  
McGill Guide, c. 3  
**Recommended Readings**  
Fitzgerald, c. 9
5. **May 25** UNDERSTANDING AND ANALYZING CASE LAW AND SECONDARY SOURCES  
**Required Readings**  
Kerr, cc. 5 & 6  
Fitzgerald, c. 10  
**Annotated Bibliography Due**
6. **May 30** LEXISNEXIS LAB  
**Guest: Ronald Jones, LexisNexis Team Training Leader**
7. **June 1** LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS  
**Required Readings**  
Kerr, cc. 2 & 3  
McGill Guide, cc. 2 & 4  
**Recommended Readings**  
Fitzgerald, cc. 7 & 8  
**Case Law Assignment Due**

- 8. June 6 RESEARCHING LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS LAB**  
**Location: Room 102 in the MacOdrum Library**  
**Guest: Marilyn Rennick, Law Research Librarian**
- Readings**  
Kerr, cc. 9, 10, 15 & 16
- Research Log Due**
- 9. June 8 SYNTHESIZING AND ANALYZING INFORMATION**
- Required Readings**  
Booth, cc. 7, 8, 9 & 10
- Statute Assignment Due**
- 10. June 13 PREPARING TO WRITE YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND GROUP PRESENTATIONS**
- Required Readings**  
Booth, cc. 12, 13 & 14  
Carleton Style Sheet for Term Papers
- 11. June 15 WRITING YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND PEER CONFERENCING ON DRAFT PROPOSALS**
- Required Readings**  
Kerr, c. 21 (pp. 223-230 to end of 'Some Rules of Good Writing')  
Booth, c. 17
- 12. June 20 COURSE REVIEW**
- JUNE 21 FINAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE IN THE LAW DEPARTMENT DROP BOX AT LOEB C473 BY 4:00 PM**