

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2908 B & V– Approaches in Legal Studies I
TERM:	Winter 2010
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1000
LECTURES:	LAWS 2908B LIVE LECTURE Day & Time: Mondays - 2:35-3:55pm Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
	LAWS 2908V: BROADCAST Day & Time: Broadcast: Rogers Cable, Channel 243 – Mondays - 7:30-9:00pm VOD (fee applies) – see CUOL (formerly CUTV) website for more information and to confirm broadcast times
TUTORIALS:	LAWS 2908B and 2908V Check your course timetable on Carleton Central to confirm the time and location of the tutorial session you registered for. All tutorials require in-person attendance at the tutorial in which you are registered.
INSTRUCTORS:	Professor T. Brettel Dawson and Professor Vincent Kazmierski
CONTACT:	<u>T. Brettel Dawson</u> Office: Loeb D492 Office Hrs: Fridays 11.30 – 1.00pm (or by appointment) Telephone: 613-520-266 ext 3670 Email: PLEASE USE WEB-CT FOR EMAIL CONTACT IN THIS COURSE
	<u>Vincent Kazmierski</u> Office: D486 Loeb Office Hrs: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00pm (or by appointment) Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 8297 Email: PLEASE USE WEB-CT FOR EMAIL CONTACT IN THIS COURSE

"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 . If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **March 12, 2011 for Winter exams**. For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: www.carleton.ca/equity

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Research is at the heart of the process of building knowledge and satisfying our curiosity about intellectual and practical questions. As such it is an important skill both inside academia and in the 'real world'. This course is designed to provide students with fundamental skills necessary to conduct socio-legal research. However, it will also provide students with important skills that will serve them in their other courses and future endeavours.

During this course, students will be introduced to various elements of the research process through a series of lectures, labs, workshops and assignments. They will learn how to design a research question grounded in the context of law in Canada. In addition to developing skills and techniques in accessing traditional and electronic research resources, students will be required to reflect upon conceptual or theoretical dimensions of research. Ultimately, students should

develop the ability to identify, find, analyze and apply the information necessary to conduct research in the field of Canadian legal studies.

For 2010-11, the course has been redesigned to take advantage of a variety of electronic and web-based resources. It is our hope that this course will introduce students to the world of research in an exciting and engaging way.

WEB-CT:

The outline of weekly lectures and tutorials as well as the readings and other supporting materials will be posted on Web-CT. Web-CT is also the primary tool for communicating with students outside of class. Students should check Web-CT on a **daily** basis for information updates concerning lectures, tutorials and assignments.

LECTURES:

Lectures in this course are designed to introduce students to the important role of research and the approaches to research that may be engaged in the field of legal studies. Lectures will also provide foundations for effective analysis of different types of primary and secondary sources in law, including statutes, regulations, judicial decisions, government documents and scholarly articles. The material covered in lectures will be examined during the final exam.

TUTORIALS:

Attendance at tutorials is **MANDATORY**. Tutorials will be used to provide hands-on introduction to research skills and training with electronic resources. Each tutorial group will consist of approximately 30 students and will be led by a designated Teaching Assistant (T.A.). Office hours and email addresses for T.A.s will be posted on Web-CT.

COURSE MATERIALS:

A. REQUIRED TEXTS:

Text Available at the Bookstore:

Margaret Kerr et al, *Legal Research: Step by Step*, 3rd ed (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2010).

Articles and Cases Available Online:

Other required readings will include articles and cases that are posted on Web-CT or that are available using online research resources. These readings will be listed in the outline of classes on Web-CT. Students will be expected to retrieve copies of these readings and read them in preparation for the appropriate lectures and tutorials.

B. OTHER WEB-BASED RESOURCES

The lectures and tutorials in this class will be supported by a variety of materials available through Web-CT. These supporting materials include video-recorded demonstrations and guides, captivate videos, youtube videos and power-point slides. Students are responsible for reviewing these supporting materials before the lectures or tutorials they are meant to support.

C. RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

1. McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 7th ed (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2010) [*McGill Guide*]. This text explains the basic rules of legal citation. It is an essential reference text for anyone conducting research concerning legal issues.
2. Wayne C Booth et al, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd ed (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2008). Available at the Carleton University Bookstore. This is a general introductory guide to research and writing in the social sciences.

EVALUATION:

This course is designed to develop skills necessary to conduct socio-legal research. These skills include identifying, finding, analyzing and applying different sources of information to answer a socio-legal research question. The evaluation mechanisms in this course are designed to test these skills.

**Tutorial Attendance and Participation- 10%
(Ongoing)**

Tutorial attendance is mandatory. The tutorials are designed to assist students in developing skills in research design and research using electronic databases and other electronic resources.

**Assignment 1 - 20%
(Assignment to be submitted electronically on Web-CT on February 2, 2011)**

This assignment will require students to summarize and analyze a scholarly article to be assigned by the instructors. More details will be provided with the assignment.

**Assignment 2 - 20%
(Assignment to be submitted electronically on Web-CT on March 2, 2011)**

This assignment will require students to summarize and analyze a judicial decision in a case to be assigned by the instructors. More details will be provided with the assignment.

**Final Research Project - 25%
(Assignment to be submitted electronically on Web-CT by March 30, 2011)**

This assignment will require students to demonstrate their ability to conduct research and answer a specified research question. More details will be provided with the assignment.

**Final Exam - 25%
(to be held during the Fall Examination Period)**

The final exam will cover material assigned during the semester, including material from readings, lectures, videos and panel discussions.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will be marked down five percent for each day submitted after the due date (including week-end days). **Assignments submitted more than one week after the due date will receive an F.** Failure to complete all components of the course will result in the student receiving a failing grade. Extensions will only be given out in extreme circumstances, such as severe illness of the student or death of a family member. Appropriate documentation will be required to accompany requests for extensions. Computer failure, conflicts with work schedule or similar problems are not a valid excuse for failure to submit an assignment on time.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: PLAGIARISM, UNAUTHORIZED RESUBMISSION OF WORK

The University's policy concerning academic integrity, including prohibitions against plagiarism and the unauthorized resubmission of work is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar (see e.g. Regulation 14 – Academic Integrity). In particular, students should note that a “student shall not submit substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs. Minor modifications and amendments such as phraseology in an essay or paper do not constitute a significant and acceptable reworking of an assignment. Students should also note that it is an instructional offence to commit plagiarism, which is defined as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.”

POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT:

The Department of Law's Policy Statement is available at <http://www2.carleton.ca/law/undergraduate-programs/course-outlines/>. The Department's policy statement is included as part of this course outline. The policy statement contains important information on topics such as the submission of assignments, due dates in course outlines, offenses, writing skills and use of language, prerequisites, course selection, responsibility for ensuring enrolment in a class, and review of grades, among other information. **Please read the Policy and Procedure Statement carefully.**