

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2908 D – Legal Studies Methods and Theory I
TERM:	Fall 2008/09
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1000 and Honours standing
CLASS:	Day & Time: Thursday – 14:35-17:25 Room: B146 LA (Loeb) (Some Classes will be held in a computer lab.)
INSTRUCTOR:	John Helis
CONTACT:	Office: C476 LA (Contract Instructors' Office) Office Hrs: Before and after class and by appointment Email: jhelis@carleton.ca

"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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a required course in the B.A. Honours Law program and is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to conduct research in both a legal and a multidisciplinary legal studies context. Students will be introduced to various aspects of the research and analysis process of primary and secondary sources through class lectures, labs and small assignments. Students should develop the ability to conduct research and properly analyze and apply it.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Margaret Kerr, JoAnn Kurtz & Arlene Blatt, *Legal Research: Step by Step*, 2nd ed. (Toronto: Emond Montgomery Publications Ltd., 2006). This text is available at the Carleton Bookstore.
2. McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 6th ed. (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2006) [*McGill Guide*].
3. Carleton University, Department of Law, *Style Sheet for Term Papers*, on-line: http://www2.carleton.ca/law/current/Legal_Style_Sheet.pdf >.
4. Additional materials will be placed on reserve at the Maxwell MacOdrum Library. A course pack of these materials will be prepared if students prefer purchasing a complete package.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

University of Toronto Faculty of Law, *Introduction to Legal Research and Citation*, online: <http://www.law-lib.utoronto.ca/Resguide/toc.htm> > [Intro to Legal Research].

PLAGIARISM AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL OFFENCES:

The University's policy concerning plagiarism and other instructional offences is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar (see particularly regulation 14 – Instructional Offences). In particular, students should note that a student commits an instructional offence if he or she "submits 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” Students should also note that it is an instructional offence to commit plagiarism, which is defined as “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product work of another without expressly giving credit to another”.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT:

The Department of Law’s Policy and Procedure Statement is distributed with, and forms part of, this course outline. The 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.

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. Students submitting late assignments must submit a hard copy of the assignment to the Department of Law drop-box and must email the instructor notifying him that the assignment has been left in the drop box.

EVALUATION

There are six components to the evaluation. All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade.

Class Attendance and Participation (10% of final mark).

Attendance and participation in class exercises and labs is mandatory because this class is designed for skill development.

Small Assignment #1: Researching and Analyzing Secondary Sources (15% of final mark)

This assignment will be handed out in class in week 3 (September 18, 2008), and time will be given in class to begin it. The assignment is due at the start of the next class on September 25, 2008.

Small Assignment #2: Case Brief (10% of final mark)

This assignment will be handed out in class in week 4 (September 25, 2008), and time will be given in class to begin it. The assignment is due at the start of the next class on October 2, 2008.

Small Assignment #3: Researching and Applying Cases (10% of final mark)

This assignment will be handed out in class in week 5 (October 2, 2008), and time will be given in class to begin it. The assignment is at the start of class on week 7 (October 16, 2008).

Small Assignment #4: Researching and Analyzing Legislation (10% of final mark)

This assignment will be handed out in class in week 10 (November 6, 2008), and time will be given in class to begin it. The assignment is at the start of the next class on November 13, 2008.

Small Assignment #5: Style and Referencing (10% of final mark)

This assignment will be conducted in class in week 11 (November 13, 2008). Attendance on this day is mandatory for the successful completion of this assignment. Please bring your copy of the McGill Guide.

Final Assignment: (Value 35% of final mark)

This assignment will assess what you have learned from the lectures as well as the skills that you have developed in the labs and the small assignments. As such, regular class attendance and the successful completion of the small assignments will have a significant bearing on your mark in this assignment. The final assignment will be handed out and explained in class in week 9 (October 30, 2008) and is due in class on the last day (November 27, 2008).

SCHEDULE

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Readings</u>
1.	September 4, 2008	Introduction to Course and Overview of Research in Law and Legal Studies
2.	September 11, 2008	Sources of Law and Beginning to Research in Law and Legal Studies <u>Readings:</u> Chapters 1 (pages 1-6), 7, 13, 18 & 20
3.	September 18, 2008	Researching and Understanding Secondary Sources in Law and Legal Studies <u>Readings:</u> Chapters 8 & 14; additional materials on reserve <u>*Assignment handed out:</u> Researching and Analyzing Secondary Sources (Due at the start of the next class: September 25, 2008).
4.	September 25, 2008	Analyzing Case Law <u>*Assignment Due:</u> Researching and Analyzing Secondary Sources <u>Readings:</u> Chapters 6, 4 (pages 37-40), 21 (pages 249-251 to the end of Writing a Case Brief); additional materials on reserve <u>*Assignment handed out:</u> Case Brief (Due at the start of the next class: October 2, 2008).
5.	October 2, 2008	Researching and Applying Case Law <u>*Assignment Due:</u> Case Brief <u>Readings:</u> Chapters 11, 17 & 5 <u>*Assignment handed out:</u> Researching and Applying Cases (Due at the start of class in week 7: October 16, 2008).
6.	October 9, 2008	Computer Lab: Researching Case Law (Room 102 in the MacOdrum Library). Lab workshop will be taught by Michelle DeVidi
7.	October 16, 2008	The Legislative Process & Researching Legislation <u>*Assignment Due:</u> Researching and Applying Cases <u>Readings:</u> Chapters 9, 10, 15, 16; additional materials on reserve
8.	October 23, 2008	Computer Lab: Researching Legislation (Room 102 in the MacOdrum Library). Lab workshop will be taught by Michelle DeVidi

9. October 30, 2008 Incorporating Research in Legal Writing

Readings: Chapter 21; additional materials on reserve

*Final Assignment handed out and explained.

10. November 6, 2008 Analyzing Legislation

Readings: Chapters 2 (pages 15-25), 3 (pages 31-33)

* Assignment handed out: Researching and Analyzing Legislation
(Due at the start of the next class: November 13, 2008)

11. November 13, 2008 Proper Style in Legal Writing

*Assignment Due: Researching and Analyzing Legislation

Readings: Chapter 1 of the *McGill Guide*;
Carleton University, Department of Law, *Style Sheet for Term Papers*.

*In-class Assignment: Style and Referencing
Please bring a copy of the *McGill Guide* and the
Department of Law, *Style Sheet for Term Papers*
(Due at the end of class).

12. November 20, 2008 Course Review & Questions about the Final Assignment**13. November 27, 2008 Final Comments**

*Final Assignment Due in Class