

## Course Outline

<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>LAWS 2908 E – Legal Studies Methods and Theory I</b>
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Fall 2009</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	<b>LAWS 1000 and Honours standing</b>
<b>CLASS:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time: Tuesday – 18:05 - 20:55</b> <b>Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)</b>	<b>John Helis</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<b>Office: C476 LA (Contract Instructors' Office)</b> <b>Office Hrs: Before and after class and by appointment</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:jhelis@connect.carleton.ca">jhelis@connect.carleton.ca</a></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 **November 16, 2009 for December examinations** and **March 12, 2010 for April examinations**. 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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**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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Toronto: Emond Montgomery Publications Ltd., 2009). This text is available at the Carleton Bookstore.
2. Carleton University, Department of Law, *Style Sheet for Term Papers*, on-line:  
< [http://www2.carleton.ca/law/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/legal\\_style\\_sheet.pdf](http://www2.carleton.ca/law/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/legal_style_sheet.pdf) >.
3. McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2006) [*McGill Guide*].
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 weekend 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 29, 2009), and time will be given in class to begin it. The assignment is due at the start of the next class on October 6, 2009.

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

This assignment will be handed out in class in week 4 (October 6, 2009), and time will be given in class to begin it. The assignment is due at the start of the next class on October 13, 2009.

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

This assignment will be handed out in class in week 5 (October 13, 2009), and time will be given in class to begin it. The assignment is at the start of class on week 7 (October 27, 2009).

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

This assignment will be handed out in class in week 8 (November 3, 2009), and time will be given in class to begin it. The assignment is at the start of class in Week 10 (November 17, 2009).

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

This assignment will be conducted in class in week 11 (November 24, 2009). 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 8 (November 3, 2009) and is due in class on the last day (December 8, 2009). The requirements of the final assignment will be further explained in week 10 (November 17, 2009). Time will be allocated in week 12 (December 1, 2009) for questions.

**SCHEDULE**

<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic/Readings</u></b>
1.	September 15, 2009	<b>Introduction to Course and Overview of Research in Law and Legal Studies</b>
2.	September 22, 2009	<b>Sources of Law and Beginning to Research in Law and Legal Studies</b>  <u>Readings:</u> Chapters 1 (pages 1-7), 7, 13, 18 & 20
3.	September 29, 2009	<b>Researching and Understanding Secondary Sources in Law and Legal Studies</b>  <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: October 6, 2009).
4.	October 6, 2009	<b>Analyzing Case Law</b>  <u>*Assignment Due:</u> Researching and Analyzing Secondary Sources  <u>Readings:</u> Chapters 6, 4 (pages 33-36), 21 (pages 229-236 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 13, 2009).
5.	October 13, 2009	<b>Researching and Applying Case Law</b>  <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 27, 2009).
6.	October 20, 2009	<b>Computer Lab: Researching Case Law (Room 102 in the MacOdrum Library).</b>  Lab workshop will be taught by Michelle DeVidi
7.	October 27, 2009	<b>The Legislative Process &amp; Researching Legislation</b>  <u>*Assignment Due:</u> Researching and Applying Cases  <u>Readings:</u> Chapters 9, 10, 15, 16; additional materials on reserve

**8. November 3, 2009 Analyzing Legislation**

Readings: Chapters 2 (pages 13-24), 3 (page 27)

\* Assignment handed out: Researching and Analyzing Legislation  
(Due at the start of class in week 10: November 17, 2009)

\* Final Assignment handed out and explained  
(Due on December 8, 2009)

**9. November 10, 2009 Computer Lab: Researching Legislation  
(Room 102 in the MacOdrum Library).**

Lab workshop will be taught by Michelle DeVidi

**10. November 17, 2009 Incorporating Research in Legal Writing**

\* Assignment Due: Researching and Analyzing Legislation

Readings: Chapter 21; additional materials on reserve

\* Final Assignment explained.

**11. November 24, 2009 Proper Style in Legal Writing**

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. December 1, 2009 Course Review & Questions about the Final Assignment****13. December 8, 2009 Final Comments**

\* Final Assignment Due in Class