

## Course Outline

<b>COURSE:</b>	LAWS 2908 F– Legal Studies Methods and Theory
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Winter 2009</b>
<b>PREREQUISITE:</b>	<b>Laws 1000 and honours standing</b>
<b>CLASS:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time:</b> Wednesday 11:35 am - 2:25 pm <b>Room:</b> Loeb Building B146 (Some of the classes in this course will be held in computer labs)
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. Ummni Khan  <b>Office:</b> D587 Loeb Building <b>Office hours:</b> Tuesday 10am-noon or by appointment. <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ummni_khan@carleton.ca">ummni_khan@carleton.ca</a> When sending an email, you must put “Legal Studies Methods and Theory” in the subject line. <b>Phone:</b> 613-520-2600 ext. 1547

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“Students with documented disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities include physical, mental, and learning disabilities, mental disorders, hearing or vision disabilities, epilepsy, drug and alcohol dependencies, environmental sensitivities, as well as other conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC at 613-520-6608, early each term to ensure that your Instructor receives 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 accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by March 6, 2009 for April exams.” Also available at [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/faculty/acom\\_statement.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/faculty/acom_statement.html) . For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, 613-520-2600 x. 5622 or their website: [www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This is a required course in the B.A. Honours Law program designed to provide students with the fundamental skills necessary to conduct legal research within an interdisciplinary context. Students will learn how to design a research question, create a plan and find sources through a series of labs, workshops and small assignments. In addition to developing skills and techniques in accessing traditional and electronic research resources, students will be asked to reflect upon theoretical dimensions of research. Legal, social science and humanities perspectives will be explored. Ultimately, students should develop the ability to find, analyze and apply the information necessary to prepare a formal research paper in the field of Canadian legal studies.

Students will develop their own research topic which they will refine (in consultation with the professor) for their final paper. The course is set up so that students will be able to complete the necessary tasks in order to write a solid research paper. Students will develop a condensed research proposal, prepare an annotated bibliography, and create a detailed research methodology - all in preparation for their final term paper

**REQUIRED TEXTS:****Texts Available at the Bookstore:**

1. Margaret Kerr et al., *Legal Research: Step by Step*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2006).
2. McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 6th ed. (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2006) [*McGill Guide*]. This text explains the basic rules of legal citation. It is an essential reference text for anyone conducting research concerning legal issues.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

1. 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*].
2. Wayne C. Booth et al., *The Craft of Research Third Edition* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2008). This is a general introductory guide to research and writing in the social sciences.

**COMMUNICATION OUTSIDE OF CLASS:**

Web-CT is the primary tool for communicating electronically with students outside of class. Students should check Web-CT on a daily basis for information updates concerning lectures, labs and assignments.

**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 her that the assignment has been left in the drop box.**

**EVALUATION PROCEDURES:**

There are four written assignments designed to develop students' ability to research and present the results of their research in a coherent, convincing manner. Students will also be graded on class attendance and participation. More detailed instructions for assignments will be provided in class.

**Note:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to 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.

<b>Assignments and Responsibilities</b>	
<p><b>Class Participation:</b> This course is structured as a seminar in which individual participation and attendance are of prime importance. Students are expected to come to class having read all assigned required readings (if applicable) and/or having conducted research for their own project. The participation mark is not only based upon actual attendance in classes and labs but also on a student's contribution to small and large group discussions and exercises.</p>	15%
<p><b>Research Proposal:</b> Students will be required to develop a properly formulated research question arising in the context of Canadian legal studies. The assignment will also test their understanding of the process of developing a research question.</p>	15%
<p><b>Annotated Bibliography:</b> Students will create a list of citations to cases, legislation, books, articles, and other documents. Each citation must include a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph that addresses how the document connects to the larger research question.</p>	20 %
<p><b>Detailed Research Methodology and Theoretical Framework:</b> Students will write a 1-2 page description of their proposed methodology and theoretical framework.</p>	20 %
<p><b>Final Paper:</b> The final research paper will present the research problem, offer an argument, evaluate the evidence and explain its significance. In doing so, the student will synthesize and analyze relevant sources (journal articles, books, case law, statutes, regulations, government documents and/or other texts) that have been collected during the semester. Papers must be 8 – 12 pages in length (double-spaced, font 12) plus a bibliography. All sources must be properly cited.</p>	30 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Readings</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Jan. 7</b>	<b>Introduction to course and overview</b> No Readings
<b>2</b>	<b>Jan. 14</b>	<b>Introduction to legal studies in an interdisciplinary setting</b>  From Topics to Questions - Developing your area of interest - Narrowing your focus - Creating a research question - From research questions to specific problems - Research strategy and timeline - Introduction to legal literature  <b>Read:</b> <i>Legal Research: Step by Step</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. – Chapter 1 and <i>The Craft of Research</i> Chapters 3 & 4 on Reserve in the Library
<b>3</b>	<b>Jan. 21</b>	<b>Theory Sampler and Quicklaw Lab</b>  <b><u>Quicklaw workshop: Darren Desaulniers 1-2pm.</u></b> We will meet in class and then proceed to the computer lab at 1:00pm.  Considering the role of theory in your research – Finding Cases on Quicklaw  <b>Read:</b> Richard F. Devlin, “Mapping Legal Theory” (1994) 32 Alta. L. Rev. 602. (On Reserve and on-line)  <b>Read:</b> <i>Legal Research: Step by Step</i> . Chapter 4 and <b>complete exercise at the end of the chapter</b>  <b>Topic sign up today!</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Jan. 28</b>	<b>Researching Secondary Sources: Library Tour and hands-on workshop</b>  From problems to sources – engaging with sources <b>Read:</b> <i>The Craft of Research</i> – Chapters 5 & 6 on Reserve in the Library  <b>Topics must be approved by the professor today!</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Feb. 4</b>	<b>Refining your research question</b>  Drafting your arguments - Supporting your claims with evidence – group exercise: pitching your hunch, your question and your hypothesis to a partner  <b>Read:</b> <i>The Craft of Research</i> . Ch. 7 on Reserve in the Library  <b>Research Proposal Assignment Due 15%</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Feb. 11</b>	<b><u>Lab:</u> Researching Cases: Westlaw and Quicklaw</b>  <b>Guest:</b> Michelle DeVidi, Law Librarian <b>Location:</b> MacOdrum Library Room 102  <b>Review:</b> <i>Legal Research: Step by Step</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. Chapter 4

		<p><b>Read:</b> <i>Legal Research: Step by Step</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chapter 11</p> <p><b>Recommended:</b> <i>Legal Research: Step by Step</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. – Chapters 8, 14 and 17</p>
7	Feb. 25	<p><b>Lab: Researching bills, statutes, regulations and government documents</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Guest: Michelle DeVidi, Law Librarian <b>Location: MacOdrum Library, Room 102</b></p> <p><b>Read:</b> <i>Legal Research: Step by Step</i> 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chapters 2 &amp; 3</p> <p><b>Read:</b> <i>The Legislative Process Library Guide:</i> <a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/law_legislation.html">http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/law_legislation.html</a></p> <p><b>Become familiar with:</b> <i>Finding Bills &amp; Statutes Library Guide:</i> <a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/findbills_statutes.html">http://www.library.carleton.ca/subjects/findbills_statutes.html</a></p>
8	March 4	<p>Citation Lab / Annotation Workshop - Students are to bring their research materials to class</p> <p><b>Read:</b> <i>Uniform Legal Citation:</i> <a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/howdol/uniform_legal_style.pdf">http://www.library.carleton.ca/howdol/uniform_legal_style.pdf</a></p>
9	March 11	<p><b>Synthesizing and Analyzing Information Group Exercise</b></p> <p>In small groups, students will discuss their topics and how they plan to shape their papers. Students will have the chance to meet with the professor one-on-one during the class to discuss challenges in their research.</p> <p><b>Review:</b> <i>The Craft of Research:</i> Ch. 7 on Reserve in the Library</p>
10	March 18	<p>Ongoing Research - Conducting additional research as necessary - Revising and re-working sections</p> <p>Working in pairs, students will address their progress in preparing their final papers. Questions regarding content, context, purpose, audience, organization, support and design will be addressed in this team exercise.</p> <p><b>Annotated Bibliography Due 20%</b></p>
11	March 25	<p>Preparing the draft – Writing Workshop - Organization - Addressing Potential Bias - Arguments &amp; Evidence - Conclusions Group Exercise – Presenting your ideas</p> <p><b>Detailed Research Methodology Due 20%</b></p>
12	April 1	<b>Review, Class discussion and Course Evaluation</b>
	April 7	<b>Final Paper due in the Department of Law drop-box</b> (The drop-box is located in the corridor outside C473 Loeb).