

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2908 J – Methods and Theory I
TERM:	Winter 2008/09
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 1000 and Honours Standing
CLASS:	Day & Time: Monday 6:05pm – 8:55pm Room: B 146 LA (Loeb) Note: Some classes will be held in the computer lab
INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)	Angela M. Long
CONTACT:	Office: C476 Loeb Office Hrs: By appointment only Telephone: 613-520-2600 ex. 3693 Email: angela.long@uottawa.ca or via WebCT

""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 November 7, 2008 for December exams and by March 6, 2009 for April exams." Also available at 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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to legal theory and standard legal research methods and will assist them in developing strong socio-legal research skills to assist them in their continuing legal studies. Students will learn how to design a research question within the Canadian socio-legal context. They will then be introduced to various aspects of the research process through a series of labs and small assignments. 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. Both legal and social science resources will be explored. Ultimately, students should develop the ability to find, analyze and apply the information necessary to prepare a research paper in the field of Canadian legal studies.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Maureen F. Fitzgerald, *Legal Problem Solving – Reasoning, Research and Writing*, 4th ed. (Toronto: LexisNexis Canada, 2007).
2. McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 6th ed. (Toronto: Thomson Carswell, 2006). [*McGill Guide*]

Both books are available at the Carleton University Bookstore. Please ensure that you have the proper editions. Older editions do not contain the most up to date information that will be covered in class.

Other required readings will be placed on Reserve at the MacOdrum Library or on WebCT. Registration on WebCT is required for this class. Please ensure that you check WebCT account on a regular basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

- 1 Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb & Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3d ed., Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008).

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

Evaluation	Weight	Date Assigned	Date Due	Place/Time Due
1. Class Participation	10%	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
2. Research Topic & Annotated bibliography	20%	January 19, 2009	February 2, 2009	Class/Start of Class
3. Case Law Assignment	15%	February 2, 2009	February 23, 2009	Class/Start of Class
4. Legislation Assignment	15%	February 16, 2009	March 9, 2009	Class/Start of Class
5. Research Paper (12 pages maximum, 3000 words)	40%	January 19, 2009	April 3, 2009	Law Department Drop Box/4:00pm

Detailed information and instructions for the assignments will be provided in class. All assignments are designed to assist the student in preparing their final research paper.

Please note that the grade for class participation encompasses more than just attendance in class. Students are required to participate regularly in class discussions and activities. Effective participation requires students to be prepared (i.e. having completed the required readings) for each class.

* Unless otherwise specified above, all assignments are due in class, at the start of class. Those assignments that are submitted at the end of class will be considered one day late and will be assessed a late penalty. All assignments must be submitted in person and on paper. Assignments submitted via e-mail will not be accepted. Assignments slipped under the Contract Instructors office door will not be accepted.

EXTENSIONS

Extensions will not be granted unless there is a valid and documented reason, such as serious illness or the death of a family member. Computer failures or conflicting work schedules will not be considered valid reasons for an extension. All extension requests **MUST** be accompanied by proper documentation. If you think that you will require an extension, and have valid reason, please get in touch with me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day, including holidays and weekends. Assignments that are received more than one week after the due date will receive a failing grade. Students are reminded that they **MUST** complete all assignments in order to pass the course. Any student who fails to complete any component of the course will receive a failing grade.

All late assignments must be submitted to the Department of Law Drop Box. In addition, students **MUST** e-mail to inform me that the assignment has been submitted to the Drop Box.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT

The Department of Law's Policy and Procedure Statement is distributed with, and forms part of, this course syllabus. 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 review of grades, among other information. Please read the Policy and Procedure Statement carefully.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are reminded of Carleton University's regulations on plagiarism, notably Regulation 14.3 of the Academic Regulations of the University, which can be found at <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html>. Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. Any suspected violations of this regulation will be reported immediately to the Dean.

SCHEDULE

Class No.	Date	Topic	Required Readings	Assignment Assigned	Assignment Due
1	5 Jan 09	Course Introduction	None		
2	12 Jan 09	Law, Theory and Method in Legal Studies Research	<p>1. B. Dawson, "Legal Research in a Social Science Setting: The Problem of Method" (1992) 14 Dalhousie L.J. 445. (On Reserve)</p> <p>2. Richard F. Devlin, "Mapping Legal Theory" (1994) 32 Alta. L. Rev. 445. (On e-Reserve and WebCT)</p> <p>3. Sandra L. Kirby & Kate McKenna, <i>Experience, Research, Social Change: Methods from the Margins</i> (Toronto: Garamond Press, 1989) at 66-74, 76-81. (On Reserve)</p>		
3	19 Jan 09	Research Design & Introduction to Secondary Sources	<p>1. Bruce MacDougall, "Refusal to Officiate at Same-Sex Civil Marriages" (2006) 69 Sask. L. Rev. 351. (On Reserve)</p> <p>2. Booth, Chapters 3, 4 (On Reserve)</p> <p>3. <i>McGill Guide</i>, Chapter 6 "Secondary Sources and Other Materials".</p>	Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography Assigned	
4	26 Jan 09	Lab – Searching Secondary Sources Class held in TBA	1. Fitzgerald, Chapters 4, 5, 6.		
5	2 Feb 09	Introduction to Case Law	<p>1. Fitzgerald, Chapter 10.</p> <p>2. <i>McGill Guide</i>, Chapter 3 "Jurisprudence".</p> <p>3. <i>Childs v. Desormeaux</i>, [2006] 1 S.C.R. 643, 2006 SCC 18. (On Reserve and WebCT)</p>	Case Law Assigned	Research Topic & Annotated Bibliography Due

6	9 Feb 09	<p>Lab – Researching Case Law</p> <p>Guest Lecture by Michelle DeVidi, Law Librarian</p> <p>Class held in MacOdrum Library Room 102</p>	1. Fitzgerald, Chapter 9.		
	16 Feb 09	NO CLASSES – READING WEEK			
7	23 Feb 09	Introduction to Legislative Resources and Government Documents	<p>1. Fitzgerald, Chapters 7, 8.</p> <p>2. <i>McGill Guide</i>, Chapters 2 & 4, “Legislation” & “Government Documents”.</p> <p>3. <i>Assisted Human Reproduction Act</i>, S.C. 2004, c. 2. (On Reserve and WebCT)</p> <p>4. <i>Assisted Human Reproduction (Section 8 Consent) Regulations</i>, SOR/2007-137. (On Reserve and WebCT)</p>	Legislative Resources Assigned	Case Law Assignment Due
8	2 Mar 09	<p>Lab – Researching Legislative Resources and Government Documents</p> <p>Guest Lecture by Michelle DeVidi, Law Librarian</p> <p>Class held in MacOdrum Library Room 102</p>	1. Fitzgerald, Chapters 7, 8.		
9	9 Mar 09	Additional Resources (Newspaper Articles, International Resources etc.)	1. <i>McGill Guide</i> , Chapter 5, “International Materials”.		Legislative Resources Assignment Due
10	16 Mar 09	Writing Workshop	1. Booth, Chapters 7, 12, 13, 14. (On Reserve)		
11	23 Mar 09	Group Work: The Peer Review Process	None		
12	30 Mar 09	Course Overview & Questions about Research Paper	None		

* Research Paper due April 3, 2009 by 4:00pm in the Law Department Drop Box