

**Course Outline**

**COURSE:** CRCJ 3003A  
**Legal Research Methods**

**TERM:** Fall 2012

**PREREQUISITES:** 3<sup>rd</sup> year standing

**CLASS:** Day & Time: Fridays 11:35 – 2:25  
Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Amy Conroy

**CONTACT:** Office: TBD  
Office Hrs: TBD  
Email: amyconroy@connect.carleton.ca

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The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable). 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:**

The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a background in the fundamentals of legal research methods, to explore theoretical approaches to legal study, and to examine the ethical issues that arise during the course of criminological research. Students will learn how to source and properly reference primary and secondary legal research materials through a series of lectures, workshops and assignments. Assignments will include a research proposal, literature review, and presentation of work to the group. Students should leave this class with the ability to read legal and criminological research with a critical eye and to evaluate the validity of applying different theories to the investigation of particular research questions.

**Required Texts:**

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

Wayne C. Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008). (Please Note: This book is available as an e-book on the library website and will be posted on the course website)

\*Additional Course Readings will be made available through the course website.

**Recommended Texts:**

McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 7th ed. (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2010). (Copy on RSV).

**Evaluation:**

Quiz: Legal Research Terminology	10%	Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> (in class)
Research Question and Abstract	15%	Due Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> (in class)
Annotated Bibliography	20%	Due Oct 26 <sup>th</sup> (in class)
Presentation of Research Topic	20%	November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Research Paper	35%	Due Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> by 3pm in the CCJ drop box outside room C562.

\*Note: Group work will be done in groups of 3-4. Groups will be assigned by the second lecture and will be the same for all group projects. Topics will be assigned once groups have been formulated.

**Quiz:** A short quiz will be given in class on October 19<sup>th</sup>. This quiz is intended to test your knowledge of key concepts in legal research. The questions will be short answer and/or multiple choice, and will be drawn from the readings and presentation slides.

**Research Question and Abstract:** This is the first of three group assignments. Each group will be assigned a broad topic and will need to design a properly formulated legal research question within that topic. The group must also write a summary of the legal and ethical issues that would be dealt with in a paper addressing the research question. In this assignment, the group must outline the main policy issues and competing perspectives on the topic. The assignment should be approximately 3-5 pages long.

**Annotated Bibliography:** This is the second group assignment. Groups will need to draft an annotated bibliography for the research question that was designed in the previous assignment. The bibliography should include cases, statutes, government documents and secondary resources, with a brief summary of each and a statement on the relevance of the work to your topic. The assignment should be approximately 10 pages in length with a minimum of 10 sources. All citations must conform to the McGill rules on Uniform Legal Citation.

**Presentation of Research Topic:** This is the final group assignment. Each group will present their legal research question and explain the ethical and policy questions relating to the topic. The presentation should cover the competing views

as outlined in the literature, and should offer a preliminary conclusion based on the existing research. Inclusion of your own thoughts and criticisms is encouraged, as is the use of visual aids. All members of the group must participate in the presentation. Each presentation should take approximately 20 minutes.

**Research Paper:** This is the major individual component of the course. You are required to submit an individual research paper that clearly identifies a research question, a main thesis, and presents a properly supported argument. You may choose to write your paper on the question formulated by your group, but you *must* submit your own original paper. The paper should summarize the relevant legislation and case law as well as the existing academic literature in your area. It should reflect an understanding of the legal, policy, and ethical questions involved in the issue and critically engage the opposing arguments. Papers should be approximately 10-12 pages in length. A penalty of 10% per day will be applied for late submissions. Please note that as per faculty regulations, all cases of suspected plagiarism will be reported to the Dean.

### Schedule:

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction / Overview of the Course	
Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Legal Research and Research Design / Assignment of Research Topics and Groups	<b>Please Read:</b> -Kerr et al. pp. 3-9, 57-67 -Wayne C. Booth et al. Chapter 3
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Using Primary Sources - Statutes and Regulations	<b>Please Read:</b> -Kerr et al. pp. 13-31, 91-104 & 161-185  <b>Further Reading:</b> -Carleton Library Tip Sheet. "Finding Bills & Statutes"
Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Using Primary Sources - Case Law	<b>Please Read:</b> -Kerr et al. pp. 33-53, 105-128 & 187-201 -Headnotes to <i>R v Stillman</i> , <i>R v Rodriguez</i> (available on CanLii)
Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	University Day, No Classes	N/A
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Library Information Session / Overview of the McGill Guide to Uniform Legal Citation	<b>Please Read:</b> -Kerr et al. pp. 153-160 & 203-207 -Uniform Legal Citation: McGill Guide, Part 1: General Rules -Carleton University Learning Commons. "Using Uniform Legal Citation"
Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Secondary Sources – Academic Literature and News Media / Quiz: Legal Research Terminology	<b>Please Read:</b> -Ian Brown. "Privacy Attitudes, Incentives and Behaviours" (2011) Available at SSRN: <a href="http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1866299">http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1866299</a> . -M. Rothstein. "Genetic Stalking and Voyeurism: A New

		Challenge to Privacy” (2009) 57(3) Univ. Kans. L. Rev. 539.
Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ethical Issues in Legal Research	<p><b>Please Read:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-T. Caulfield &amp; B. Knoppers. “Consent, Privacy, and Research Biobanks” (2010) Genome Canada Policy Brief No. 1.</li> <li>-T. Lemmens, D. Pullman &amp; R. Rodall. “Revisiting Genetic Discrimination Issues in 2010: Policy Options for Canada” (2010) Genome Canada Policy Brief No. 2.</li> <li>-N.M. Ries &amp; E. Einsiedel. “Online Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing: Issues &amp; Policy Options” (2010) Genome Canada Policy Brief No. 3.</li> </ul>
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Academic Writing Workshop	<p><b>Please Read:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Wayne C. Booth et al Chapter 7, 9 &amp; 10</li> </ul> <p><b>Further Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Wayne C. Booth et al Chapter 16</li> </ul>
Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations	
Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations	
Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Presentations	
Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Course Wrap Up and Review of Paper requirements	