

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**SUMMER 2024 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	LAW 388 Advanced Legal Research and Writing
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Tim Richards
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Summer 2024
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See schedule
<b>PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES</b>	LAW 388 fulfils the major research paper requirement for the JD Degree and JD/JID Joint Degree when completed with a grade of 65% or more.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Law 388 provides students with the knowledge and skills essential to professional legal research. It builds on the research and writing skills learned in first year law. Students explore a wide range of research sources, legal and non-legal, with an emphasis upon computer assisted legal research. The course includes a conceptual and theoretical understanding of the skills of legal writing, analysis and research with the purpose of enabling students to have a deeper understanding of these skills that will assist them in their legal work. The course develops and emphasizes the obligations of professionalism as underpinning the development of the skills covered and legal work.

This course provides a foundation for success in the Legal Research and Writing component of the Professional Legal Training Course (B.C.).

The components of the course are as follows.

- (1) Legal Research
  - a. A conceptual understanding of legal research which will enable students to research any legal topic and research the law in Canadian as well as non-Canadian jurisdictions.
  - b. A focus on computer assisted legal research of primary sources of law, both legislation and case law.
  - c. A focus on research using secondary sources of law.
- (2) Legal Analysis
  - a. A conceptual and practical understanding of the nature and types of legal analysis and reasoning.
- (3) Legal Writing
  - a. A conceptual understanding of legal writing.
  - b. An analysis of practical ways to improve legal writing, developed through the competition of exercises to improved legal writing.

The skills covered in the components of the course will be developed through exercises that provide practice in legal research.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The course will employ a combination of lectures, exercises, and tutorials. The lectures will present concepts and theory with respect to legal research and legal writing, explain the structure of secondary sources. The in-class exercises will provide practice in developing legal research and legal writing skills. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with the material through asking questions and engaging in class discussions. Several guest speakers will present to the class on specific aspects of legal research and writing.

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<sup>1</sup> The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, [law.studentservices@uvic.ca](mailto:law.studentservices@uvic.ca)

## EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Major Research Paper	65%
Research Plan	10%
Final Research Quiz	20%
Attendance & Participation	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

*February 15, 2024*