

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2023-24 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)¹

COURSE	LAW 343 Legislative Drafting
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTORS	Melanie Mortensen
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2023
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITE	None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to offer practical, technical skills that will allow students to practice working together for drafting and to acquire legislative drafting techniques, with the aim of preparing clear and coherent legal instruments. This will help build the skills that may assist students with an interest in understanding and working with legislation, including by advising on or writing laws that may impact or be enacted by Indigenous lawmakers.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the practical skills for working together to draft effective and coherent legislation and other instruments that have legal effect (including bylaws, rules and contracts, for instance) in the context of commonwealth common law drafting standards, with a focus on drafting legislation. The specific objectives of this course are for students to practice drafting legal documents (particularly laws) and to understand the following:

- Working with teams and consultation partners to design and achieve legislative and policy results;
- Source and force of law for legislation and other legal documents;
- Reading legislation and other legal documents, including Interpretation principles and law;
- Modern drafting standards and precedents;
- Foundations, features and other design matters for legislation and other legal documents;
- Making meaning from external sources;
- Connecting ideas for internal coherence and meaning;
- Complexity in drafting and the role of sentence structure;
- Logic problems, coherence, consistency and ambiguity;
- Future trends in drafting.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology will include lectures, classroom and group discussions and exercises, and problem analysis. Ongoing engagement exercises will be requested to reflect development through the term. Students are expected to have read assigned materials before class and to be prepared to discuss them in class and in the engagement exercises.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Presentation - 15%

Participation and engagement exercises - 10%

Proposal - 25%

Final project - 50 %

June 2023

¹ 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, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services (lawmaass@uvic.ca).