

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**2014-15 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	Law 343 Legal Information Technology
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Darin Thompson / James Williams
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Spring 2015
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See schedule
<b>PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES</b>	None

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is situated at the intersection of technology, legal services and justice. It goes beyond acknowledgment of technology as a significant force of change, and explores the implications of technology for legal practice and access to justice. It blends critical analysis with a strong practical component, including experimentation with cutting edge legal technologies and an application design project.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This course will be led by two young and dynamic instructors who bring combined experience in academia, software engineering, legal informatics, legal practice, legislation and policy, and technology-centered justice reform. Pending the outcome of any final decisions around course logistics, the instructors will provide a mix of face-to-face interaction, 'flipped classroom' delivery of pre-recorded lectures, hands on experimentation with real-world technologies and vigorous debate around potentially significant and often controversial topics concerning access to justice and technology, as well as the past, present and future of legal practice. At all times during the course, the instructors will be available for asynchronous and remote interactions with students by email or other technological communication channels. Every effort will be made to reference leading and up-to-date readings for the course curriculum.

## **EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

**Assignments (30%):** The course will feature hands-on assignments that give students practical experience in using and designing legal information technology. For instance, the class may work with commercial grade eDiscovery software, use graph visualization software to view a case network, perform simple data mining of a collection of text documents, write a simple automated document generation tool, participate in an online dispute resolution exercise, design an access-to-justice phone app, using the a2j software kit. Students will also write a short (1-2 pages) reflective piece on material presented during the class, as well as a longer piece (6-8 pages) on the role of technology in law, and its impact on the profession (e.g., access to justice, legal practice management, the legal marketplace, etc.).

**Concept Design Document (30%):** Students will author a Conceptual Design Document that identifies a real problem or sample use case that can be addressed by a new legal information technology, and then determine and describe their conceptual vision for a solution. The Design Document is intended to stimulate creativity and the application of knowledge and perspectives acquired in the course, particularly in relation to client-centric, as opposed to lawyer-centric, perspectives on the law. It will not be of a technological nature, and will not require technological knowledge or skills other than those taught in the course.

**Final Essay (40%):** The final essay will require the students to reflect on legal information technology in terms of its impact on the profession (e.g., legal practice management, the legal marketplace, etc.) or on access to justice.

May 26, 2014

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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, the Manager, Academic Administration and Student Services ([lawmaass@uvic.ca](mailto:lawmaass@uvic.ca)).