

COURSE	LAW 322 Family Law
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Michelle Kinney & Christine Murray
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2024
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule (Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.)
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES	LAW 105 or LAW 105I is a required prerequisite for this course. LAW 322 is a recommended prerequisite for LAW 350 Law Centre.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys the legal framework surrounding the formation and regulation of family relationships and family breakdown in Canada. A primary goal of this course is to hone in students the key skills of 'good' family lawyering, namely *compassion, criticality, creativity and collaboration*. As we are family law practitioners, we will take a practical approach to family law including the processes and procedures involved in practicing family law.

Topics include cohabitation, marriage, separation, divorce, parenting, property division, spousal and child support, family violence, assisted reproduction, court processes and dispute resolution. During the course, we will spend significant time exploring the evolution of family law and the cultural, social, economic and other factors that have informed the historical development of family law, the current status of family law and potential for the future of family law. Our specific focus will be on the practical application of family law in BC through a lens of critical factors including race, colonization, class, gender, sexual orientation and access to justice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures, class discussion, small group work and take-home exercises. Our goal is to have an active and engaged classroom environment. We encourage discussion, questions, and debate during in class sessions. Reading the assigned materials will help you excel in this class and be prepared for class discussion. However, we will not be keeping attendance or monitoring student engagement. We trust you to create your best learning journey and outcomes.

Family law is a complex and constantly changing. Therefore, the course is designed to provide an overview of key legal issues in family law. We have selected one textbook for this course, *Annotated Family Practice 2023-2024*, CLEBC, which is the key resource relied upon by family law practitioners in BC. This text is available to you free of cost.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

1. Essay: 40%

Students will be required to write an essay not to exceed 10 pages or a project of similar weight. Students may write on a topic of their choice that critically examines an issue covered raised in class. **Anticipated due date: March 15, 2024**

2. Exam: 60%

The final exam for this course will be open-book exam due at the assigned date for the Family Law exam. The exam will enable students to draw on materials assigned and taught throughout the term. **See UVIC Exam Schedule.**

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, Law Academic Services (law.studentservices@uvic.ca)