

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**2023-24 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION SUMMARY (PCIS)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	LAW 343 Comparative Health Law
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Ireh Iyioha
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Spring 2024
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See Schedule
<b>PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES</b>	None

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

How does the behaviour of powerful nations, such as USA and China, impact the functioning of both the World Health Organization and public health care in Canada? In light of Canadians' patronage of Switzerland for assisted death and legal advances in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada, how do the legal, ethical, and socio-cultural issues that underlie MAiD change from country to country or within different juridical communities in the same country? In what ways do concepts of "rights" and "obligations" differ as between Western nations and China where the concept of *citizen rights*, rather than *human rights*, holds sway? What connections are there between the idea of "love" as a political discourse and a cornerstone of citizens' obligation to law in China and China's management of the COVID-19 pandemic? What impact, if any, does such an approach to pandemic management have on the rest of the world? How effective are international agreements, such as the International Health Regulations, 2005 (IHRs), in fostering global solidarity and cooperation in public health emergencies and in engendering the sharing of health data across nations? Is a global pandemic treaty—which is likely to replace the IHRs—necessary to curb the next public health emergency? These fascinating questions are some of the issues that students will engage with in Law 343. The course will introduce students to the legal and ethical rules governing health law in selected jurisdictions around the world. Students will gain critical insights into the nature, merits, and limits of comparative legal studies and be able to critique the rules and debates around contentious issues in health law internationally, such as on assisted death, abortion, medical negligence, and pandemics, to name a few. The course will provide students with the tools to understand the factors—social, cultural, economic, political and historical—that influence how different societies address similar challenges in their healthcare systems. The course will guide understanding of how law's interaction with these factors create different legal outcomes and the ways in which a comparative perspective sheds light on this interface. Selected readings include caselaw, academic articles, textbook chapters, and statutes drawn from Canada and foreign jurisdictions.

### **TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

Teaching will be done primarily through interactive discussions and group-based analysis, and where feasible, through delivery of content by country-level subject-matter experts. Students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions and engage deeply with guest experts. Success in this course will weigh heavily on class attendance and preparation through the completion of readings and other assigned materials for the course.

### **EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (Tentative/Subject to change)**

There will be two optional methods of evaluation:

Final Exam: 100% **Take-home exam**

Research Paper: 100%

Recognizing that some students may need flexibility with the mode of evaluation, some students may elect to complete a paper in lieu of the final exam (number of students who may elect to write a research paper TBD). Students who choose to do so must notify the instructor as soon as possible to secure permission and topic approval. The instructor will decide which requests to approve based on students' individual needs (year of study, graduation requirements, learning needs, or other extenuating circumstances), the subject-matter of the paper, and instructor's core research expertise.

*June 2023*

<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 Student Services ([law.studentservices@uvic.ca](mailto:law.studentservices@uvic.ca))