

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**2023-2024 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	LAW 367 Communications Law and Policy
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Hank Intven
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Spring 2024
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See Schedule
<b>PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES</b>	None. However, completion or concurrent registration in LAW 301 Administrative Law would be helpful.

### **COURSE RATIONALE**

Electronic communications networks are the life stream of today's society and economy. Telecommunications, broadcasting and digital communications services and applications are ubiquitous. We use broadband internet services to connect with our friends, family, governments, health and social service providers, and others in our local, national, and global communities. These services are also used by spammers, scammers, terrorists, predators, hate mongers and political manipulators. Artificial intelligence (AI) applications and the information they produce are increasingly prevalent on communications networks. An understanding of the laws, regulations and policies governing electronic communications will assist students to understand and deal with the legal issues faced by consumers, businesses, citizens, and governments in today's digital world. The course will provide working examples of the application of public administrative law and government policy in key areas of Canadian society and markets.

### **BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the legal and policy frameworks for electronic communications media. It focuses on the frameworks for (1) telecommunications services, including wireline and wireless broadband internet voice, video, and data services, (2) TV and radio broadcasting and audio-visual content services including Internet video streaming services, (3) other information available on digital platforms, including social media platforms, mis- and disinformation, and synthetic information produced by AI apps. Issues covered include competition policy, online social harms, online privacy, promotion of Canadian content in a globalized digital environment, and evolving legislation and regulation of AI, online news, and cybersecurity.

### **TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

The course will be taught by Mr. Intven. It generally includes guest lectures and debates (sometimes by videoconference) with leading experts on communications law and policy, senior representatives of relevant government and regulatory agencies, and/or industry and public interest group representatives. Most of the 3-hour once-a-week sessions will be devoted to presentations made in an interactive format, with questions and comments encouraged.

### **EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Up to 70% of the marks for the course will be awarded for a research paper on a topic approved by the instructor and based on an approved outline. A list of suggested research paper topics will be circulated. Up to 20% of marks will be awarded for a research paper proposal that includes an abstract, a detailed outline of sub-topics to be covered, and a short description of the research and analytical approach to be pursued, and other resources to be consulted. Up to 10% will be awarded for class participation that demonstrates an understanding of the required readings for the course. In some years, the research paper requirement will be replaced by preparation and presentation of a research and advocacy paper in an interactive mock-hearing format. This evaluation methodology may change based, among other things, on the developing use of AI apps to write research papers.

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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 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 ([hintven@uvic.ca](mailto:hintven@uvic.ca)) or [law.studentservices@uvic.ca](mailto:law.studentservices@uvic.ca)

## **COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

**Hank Intven** led the telecommunications law practice of McCarthy Tétrault LLP, practising out of the firm's Toronto office for over 27 years. He is a former Executive Director of Telecommunications at the CRTC and has on three Government of Canada expert panels on communications policy. He has provided regulatory, policy and business law advice in the communications field to companies, regulators, governments, and others in Canada and over 25 other countries.

*June 2023*