

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

COURSE	LAW 388 Advanced Legal Research and Writing
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTORS	Kaitlyn Cumming
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2024
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITE	LAW 388 fulfils the major research paper requirement for the JD and JD/JID degree when completed with a course grade of 65% or more.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Law 388 provides students with the knowledge and skills essential to professional legal research. It builds on the research and writing skills learned in first year law. Students explore a wide range of research sources, legal and non-legal, with an emphasis upon computer assisted legal research. The course includes a conceptual and theoretical understanding of the skills of legal writing, written advocacy, analysis and research with the purpose of enabling students to have a deeper understanding of these skills that will assist them in their legal work. The course develops and emphasizes the obligations of professionalism and competence required in the practice of law.

This course provides a foundation for success in the Legal Research and Writing component of the Professional Legal Training Course (B.C.).

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the course are to provide students with the following knowledge and skills:

- (1) Legal Research
 - a. A conceptual understanding of legal research which will enable students to research any legal topic and research the law in Canada, including historical laws.
 - b. A focus on computer assisted legal research of primary sources of law, both legislation and case law.
 - c. A focus on research using secondary sources of law.
- (2) Legal Analysis
 - a. A conceptual and practical understanding of the nature and types of legal analysis and reasoning.
- (3) Legal Writing
 - a. A conceptual understanding of legal writing.
 - b. An analysis of practical ways to improve legal writing.

The skills covered in the components of the course will be developed through exercises that provide practice in legal research, writing and analysis. The Major Research Paper will provide students an opportunity to combine and apply the skills learned in each component of the course.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course will employ a combination of in-person and virtual lectures, exercises, and tutorials. The lectures will present concepts and theory with respect to legal research and legal writing, explain the structure of secondary sources, and provide guidance on completing exercises. The in-class exercises will provide practice in developing legal research and legal writing skills. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with the material through asking questions and engaging in class discussions. Guest speakers may present to the class on specific aspects of legal research and writing.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Major Research Paper	60%
Research Plan	10%
LRW Exercises (P/F completion marks)	25%
Attendance & Participation	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

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, Law Student Services (law.student.services@uvic.ca).