COURSE DESCRIPTION
Privacy law impacts most aspects of society, including: Government, the private sector and personal lives. Privacy law issues are rapidly changing due to technology and the international flow of information. Freedom of information law is regularly used by the media, political parties, advocacy groups and lawyers to learn information that impacts people and shapes societal discourse. This course introduces students to the Canadian privacy and freedom of information law (with an emphasis on BC and federal legislation), and engages in extensive policy discussion about emerging issues and laws. The privacy topics addressed will include:

- the personal (including discrimination), political (i.e. elections, etc.) and commercial impacts of privacy;
- technology and its impacts on privacy;
- the historical record v. the “right to be forgotten”;
- the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**;
- Canadian public sector privacy laws;
- Canadian private sector privacy laws;
- criminal law and public safety;
- international privacy protection regimes, as well as the international flow of information;
- security, privacy breaches and enforcement;
- health information, including genetic data;
- employment and labour; and
- statutory and common law torts.

The freedom of information topics will include the FOI process and information protected from disclosure, such as solicitor-client privilege, litigation privilege, confidential business information, policy advice, Cabinet confidences, third-party privacy, law enforcement information and public interest disclosure.

METHODOLOGY
This course will be taught through a combination of lectures, guest speakers, small group work, and classroom discussion.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY
The students are expected to be evaluated as follows:

a) Discussion questions / comments for four classes – 10%
b) Midterm assignment (legal analysis/written argument regarding an FOI issue) – 25%
c) Paper – 65%

May 2018