COURSE: LAW 309: The Law of Evidence

UNIT VALUE: 1.5 Units (3 hours per week)

INSTRUCTOR: Michelle S. Lawrence

TERM OFFERED: Fall 2019

CLASS TIMES: See schedule

PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITE: LAW 309 is a required prerequisite for LAW 350 Law Centre: Clinical Term. LAW 309 is a required prerequisite for LAW 356 Advocacy. LAW 309 is a recommended pre- or corequisite for LAW 355 Legal Skills.

OBJECTIVES AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

The law of evidence provides the parameters through which facts are determined within the adjudicative process, and thus the manner in which truth is defined for legal purposes. It is on the basis of these facts that findings of liability are made. Counsel require an informed appreciation of the law of evidence, so that they can advise clients with respect to the preservation of evidence in anticipation of litigation and make proper use of that evidence in subsequent proceedings.

The objectives of this course are:

1. To introduce the substantive law of evidence and consider the manner in which it is applied in practice;
2. To identify principles of fairness and conceptualizations of justice underlying the law of evidence; and
3. To explore issues of professional responsibility related to the preservation and use of evidence.

METHODOLOGY

Instruction will be comprised of lectures, skill development exercises, and class discussion.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Students may opt to complete a written assignment worth 25% of their final grade.

Otherwise, evaluation will be based solely on the results of their performance in an open book final examination.

May 2019