

COURSE	LAW 388 Advanced Legal Research and Writing
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Claude Marchessault
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2024
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES	LAW 388 fulfils the major research paper requirement for the JD Degree and JD/JID Joint Degree when completed with a grade of 65% or more.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

LAW 388 provides students with 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 legal research sources, with emphasis on computer assisted research.

This course fulfils the major research paper requirement for the JD Degree and JD/JID Joint Degree when completed with a grade of 65% or more. It also provides a good foundation for the Legal Research and Writing component of the Professional Legal Training Course (B.C.).

The two main components of the course are:

- (1) Research
 - a. conceptual understanding of legal research to enable students to research the law in Canada and foreign jurisdictions;
 - b. strategies to analyze legal problems and refine research results for efficiency, accuracy, and thoroughness; and
 - c. focus on working with primary and secondary sources.

- (2) Writing
 - a. conceptual understanding of legal writing to enable students to consider audience and style; and
 - b. application of writing tools and strategies to improve legal writing.

Skills are developed through practice exercises, graded assignments and a major research paper.

METHODOLOGY

LAW 388 will employ a combination of lectures, exercises and tutorials. Lectures will present concepts and theory with respect to legal research and writing and explain the structure of secondary sources. Exercises and assignments will provide practice in developing legal research and writing skills. Students are encouraged to engage with the materials and are expected to participate in class discussions, complete readings and submit exercises/assignments on time. Several guest speakers will present on specific aspects of legal research and writing.

EXPECTED EVALUATION

Major Research Paper	60%
Research Plans	10%
Written Assignments	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

May 2024

¹ Information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More 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)