

**FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**  
**2024-2025 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>COURSE</b>	LAW 309 The Law of Evidence
<b>UNIT VALUE</b>	1.5 Units (3 hours per week)
<b>INSTRUCTORS</b>	Clare Jennings & Chandra Fisher
<b>TERM OFFERED</b>	Spring 2025
<b>CLASS TIMES</b>	See schedule
<b>PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES</b>	LAW 309 is a required prerequisite for LAW 356 Advocacy LAW 309 is a recommended prerequisite for LAW 350 The Law Centre

### **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. In turn, it is on these facts that findings of liability or guilt are made. An informed appreciation of the law of evidence is crucial to properly advise clients and prepare for and conduct litigation. This course will introduce students to the principles, rules and procedures governing evidence in criminal and civil contexts, with a focus on criminal litigation.

The objectives of this course are:

1. Identify, understand, and apply the fundamental principles of evidence, including underlying principles of justice and fairness, and relevant professional responsibility issues;
2. Analyze fact patterns and identify the evidence issues; and
3. Discuss, understand, and develop the ability to write about the goals of Evidence Law, the manner of obtaining those goals, and the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches, particularly to admissibility, judicial discretion, and proof.

### **METHODOLOGY**

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

### **EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

Evaluation will be based on a written fact pattern analysis (max 5 pages), and an open book final examination.

### **NOTE**

The facts of cases discussed can be disturbing and can have a personal impact.

June 2024

<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto:law.student.services@uvic.ca)).