

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2024-25 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION SUMMARY¹

COURSE	LAW 383 Municipal Law and Sustainability
UNIT VALUE	1.5 units (3 hours of class time per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Tom Zworski
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2025
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES	None

MAJOR EDUCATIONAL GOALS/COURSE OBJECTIVES

Local governments, primarily municipalities and regional districts, have broad authority to regulate a wide range of activities in communities. They also operate many services and own substantial assets. Local governments are arguably the most visible form of government as they regulate the physical development of cities, towns, and the countryside, and take care of day-to-day services such as water, liquid and solid waste, business regulation, and parks. The way in which local governments exercise this broad authority has a significant impact on the sustainability of their communities.

Using primarily case law, this course explores the parameters of the legislative, administrative, and quasi-judicial powers of local governments. The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to, and understanding of, the primary principles of municipal law in Canada, with a particular focus on the legislative regime in B.C. The central focus of the course will be on the diverse powers of municipal governments, and how the courts review and define municipal action. Consideration will also be given to the structural problems in the operation of local governments.

SUBJECT MATTER TO BE COVERED

- (1) The nature of local government.
- (2) Statutory basis and governance.
- (3) Scope of judicial control of local government.
- (4) Zoning and land use control.
- (5) Business regulation and licensing.
- (6) Enforcement of municipal bylaws.
- (7) Municipal revenue and borrowing.
- (8) Actions against municipalities.
- (9) Current issues in municipal law.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures, classroom discussion. It is expected that students will have read assigned materials prior to class and will be prepared to discuss them. In addition to the cases and legislation set out in the syllabus, a lecture outline and overview of each topic will be posted on the course web site for most weeks.

¹ The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More detailed 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 Academic Services (law.studentservices@uvic.ca)

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

1. Two short written assignments 40%
2. A choice of:
 - open book final examination 60% or
 - research paper (5,000 words maximum) 60%

Please note: There is **NO** possibility of a candidate completing a major writing requirement in this course.

May 2024