

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
SPRING 2025 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)¹

COURSE	LAW 388 Advanced Legal Research and Writing
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units
INSTRUCTOR	Valerie L. Le Blanc
TERM OFFERED	Spring 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.
RECOMMENDED PREPARATION	Students should have completed a foundational course in their major research paper topic. Restrictions on use of past course work apply per the University of Victoria Policy on Academic Integrity—Multiple Submission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

LAW 388 gives students the knowledge and tools to perform professional legal research, analysis, and writing. This course builds on the research and writing skills learned in first year law. Students will engage with online legal research tools to develop advanced research skills to locate primary and secondary legal and non-legal sources, with comparative discussion of how to work with print sources. The course will also introduce students to research strategies and tools for conducting international and foreign comparative legal research. This course serves as a foundation for success in the Legal Research and Writing component of the Professional Legal Training Course (B.C.).

The two components of the course are:

- (1) Legal Research
 - a. A conceptual understanding of legal research so that students can research any legal topic and the law in Canadian and foreign jurisdictions.
 - b. Strategies to clarify and analyze a legal problem, and evaluative techniques to refine research results for efficiency, accuracy, and thoroughness; and
 - c. Review of the structure of primary and secondary sources, and how to work effectively with each type.
- (2) Legal Writing
 - a. A conceptual understanding of legal writing that considers both audience and style; and
 - b. Discovery and application of legal writing tools and strategies to improve legal writing.

Students will enhance their skills in legal research and writing through practice exercises and assignments.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

This course will use a combination of readings, lectures, practice exercises, and guest lecture tutorials to review legal research and writing theory and concepts. Students will also consider the theoretical and practical components of a legal research question for their major paper. Students should engage with the materials and participate in class discussions. Several guest speakers will present on specific aspects of legal research and writing.

EXPECTED EVALUATION

Major Research Paper	60%
Research Plan & Log	10%
Research & Writing Quiz	15%
Written Assignment & Peer Review	10%
Participation	5%
Total	100%

June 6, 2024

¹ 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, the Law front office (law.studentervices@uvic.ca)