

Advanced Legal Research & Writing Law 430.001 – Summer 2023

COURSE INFORMATION

Course dates: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 through Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Time: 1:30pm – 5pm

Location: Room 208 (Law Library) - *No Food Allowed. Beverages in spill-proof containers okay*

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

George Tsiakos

Head, Law Library

tsiakos@allard.ubc.ca

Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Legal Research will provide students with the ability to locate and update relevant case law, legislation and commentaries on specific topics. The course will provide students with confidence as they undertake research for course work or begin their articles, because they will have gained a substantial, usable set of research skills.

The focus will be on developing practical research skills. Training will be provided on researching the law in British Columbia and Canada. The course will also touch on foreign jurisdictions such as the UK, and the United States.

Students will have an opportunity to synthesize information gained through legal research into written documents commonly used in legal practice, and particularly during articles. The emphasis will be on drafting legal memos and opinion letters. The overall learning experience will include reading assignments, individual and group exercises, and written assignments.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Develop a research strategy for any legal issue, regardless of jurisdiction;
- Demonstrate effective use of primary and secondary legal resources;
- Research federal and BC legislation;
- Research federal and provincial case law;
- Demonstrate problem solving skills; and
- Demonstrate written communication skills.

COURSE STRUCTURE

A blended learning approach will be used which will include both in-person and online learning experiences. In-person classes will be held at Allard Hall in Room 208 (located in the Law Library) and we will be using a “flipped classroom” approach. This means that the majority of the lecture content will be pushed online and assigned as homework. This may involve watching a video or reading commentary on a specific topic before coming to class. This approach will allow us to devote more class time to assimilating your knowledge of the topic at hand through problem-solving and discussions. These classes will be interactive and experiential; therefore, it is highly recommended that you bring a laptop or a tablet to each class. Classes will proceed on the assumption that you have already completed the assigned homework. Canvas is the main online instructional platform that will be used to facilitate your interaction with the course. You can access Canvas using your CWL credentials at canvas.ubc.ca.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Required:

- All required readings and activities will be accessible via Canvas.

Optional:

- *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation* [McGill Guide], 9th, 8th, or 7th edition.
- Margaret E McCallum, Deborah A Schmedermann & Christina L Kunz, *Synthesis: Legal Reading, Reasoning and Writing in Canada*, 4th ed (Toronto: LexisNexis, 2017). Two print copies available for 2hr loan in the Law Library Reference Room (Level 2 at KE265 M33 2017)

PASSWORDS

In the first week, students should ensure that they have active passwords for Lexis+ Canada and Westlaw Edge Canada. These passwords must be readily available for each class. If you do not already have these passwords, please email Elim Wong at: elim.wong@ubc.ca.

EVALUATION & GRADING

The final grade for the course will be expressed as a percentage and will conform to the Allard School of Law grading rules. Students will be evaluated on their individual performance. All law students are subject to the University's rules on Academic Misconduct – review the regulation at:

<https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,286,0,0#:~:text=All%20UBC%20students%20are%20expected,may%20result%20in%20disciplinary%20action.>

- **Research Assignments** – 100%
Students are required to complete two (2) written assignments. Students must work individually on these assignments and meet assignment deadlines. In addition to content, students will be assessed on their research, analysis, legal citation, and quality of their written work.
- **Assignment 1** will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis where the passing threshold is 65%. Regardless of the passing threshold, only a Pass or Fail grade will be assigned (i.e. no % grade). If a student fails the assignment, **2% will be deducted from their final mark in the course.**
- **Assignment 2** – 100% of total mark (subject to Assignment 1)

Assignment	Date Distributed	Date Due
Assignment 1	June 13, 2023	June 20, 2023
Assignment 2	July 11, 2023	July 25, 2023

WEEKLY PARTICIPATION

Students must attend all scheduled classes and complete all class activities. Students are expected to come prepared to each class and arrive on time. Pre-class preparations will include reading assigned content, watching videos, and other activities. Students may use laptops and mobile devices for note-taking, accessing course material, and completing exercises and not for other purposes.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise. There are campus resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC [Senate website](#).

Advanced Legal Research Law 430.001 - Weekly Outline

Class 1 – May 9, 2023

- Introduction & Review of Syllabus
- Secondary Sources - Books, Legal Encyclopedias & Periodicals
- Boolean Searching

Class 2 – May 16, 2023

- BC Legislation
- Research Memo – Summary and Facts

Class 3 – May 23, 2023

- Federal Legislation
- Research Memo – Issues and Brief Answers

Class 4 – May 30, 2023

- Interpreting Statutes
- Research Memo – Discussion and Analysis

Class 5 – June 6, 2023

- Canadian Case Law
- Research Memo – Discussion and Analysis

Class 6 – June 13, 2023

- Canadian Case Law
- Research Memo – Writing Style



Assignment 1 – Distributed June 13

Class 7 – June 20, 2023

- Point-in-Time Legislative Research
- Municipal Bylaws



Assignment 1 – Due June 20

Class 8 – June 27, 2023

- Researching Foreign Law
- Researching English law

Class 9 – July 4, 2023

- Researching US law
- Problem Solving

Class 10 – July 11, 2023

- Opinion Letters
- Researching International Law



Assignment 2 – Distributed July 11

Class 11 – July 18, 2023

- Researching EU Law
- Course Review & Term Wrap-Up



Assignment 2 – Due July 25