



We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the hən̓q̓əmi̓ñəm̓ speaking Musqueam people.

iSchool Mission: Through innovative research, education and design, our mission is to enhance humanity's capacity to engage information in effective, creative and diverse ways.

LIBR 533 Legal Information Sources and Services – Course Syllabus (3)

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| Program: | MLIS |
| Year: | Winter Term 2021, Term 2 |
| Course Schedule: | Asynchronous online, January 11 - April 14, 2021 |
| Location: | Online |
| Instructor: | Carolyn Petrie |
| Office location: | Online |
| Office phone: | N/A |
| Office hours: | By appointment |
| E-mail address: | carolyn.petrie@ubc.ca |
| Learning Management Site: | http://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/canvas/ |

Course Goal:

This course provides students with an understanding of the structure of the legal system and legal information in Canada; the ability to navigate this information at a level commensurate with being employed at a junior professional level; and perspective on some of the unique features of and current issues affecting legal information, libraries, and publishing.

FNCC specialization: The assignments in this course can serve the requirements of the First Nations Curriculum Concentration (FNCC). If students would like to take this course for FNCC credit, they are invited to contact me to discuss this option.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Discuss the basic elements of the Canadian legal system [1.1]
2. Describe and apply legal research and reference methods, and compare those methods to those used in general reference services [5.1]
3. Apply the principles for identifying, evaluating, selecting, and maintaining Canadian legal research tools, both print and electronic [2.2]
4. Discuss the roles and responsibilities that legal information professionals assume in various Canadian organizations [1.4]
5. Describe the current trends in legal information services in Canada and elsewhere [1.1]
6. Recognize the skills required to establish, operate, and manage responsibly a legal information service [3.2]



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Course Topics:

- Overview of the Canadian legal system and Canadian legal information sources
- Basic legislative and case law research skills
- Introduction to Canadian, English and American legal resources, in print and online
- Legal research methods
- Legal reference services in the legal, academic and public library
- Practical law librarianship; running the law library

Prerequisites:

MLIS and Dual MAS/MLIS: Completion of MLIS Core or permission of iSchool Graduate Advisor.
MAS: completion of MAS core and permission of the iSchool Graduate Advisor.

Format of the course:

Lectures, online activities, resources demonstrations, and guest commentary. This course is offered asynchronously, with weekly content broken into multiple 30-60 minute modules. Students are to view, read and/or complete modules assigned each week by Sunday evening. Students are expected to participate by posting the results of their online activities, and posting comments and discussions as appropriate or assigned.

Estimated number of weekly hours students should dedicate to this class (preparation activities + class activities): 1-1.5 hours, in addition to weekly 2.5 hours of teaching material.

Required and Recommended Reading:

Required:

- Weekly readings will be assigned on Canvas; all readings will be publicly-available or accessible through UBC Library resources (i.e. you will not be required to pay for any readings for this course)

Recommended:

The following textbooks provide an excellent overview of legal research approaches and resources, and career development, but are not required reading for this course:

- MacEIlven, D.T., Campbell, N.A. and Davis, J.N. Legal Research Handbook, 6th edition. LexisNexis Canada Inc., 2013.
- Demers, Annette L., ed. Legal Information Specialists: a Guide to Building and Launching your Career. LexisNexis Canada Inc., 2012.

**Course Assignments:**

| Assignment Name | Due Date | Weight | Graduate Competencies |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Law in the News | Throughout the term | 20% | 2.2, 5.1 |
| Research Assignment | March 14, 2021 | 20% | 1.1, 2.2, 5.1 |
| Subject Guide | April 11, 2021 | 40% | 1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2 |
| Class Participation | Throughout the term | 20% | 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 |

Course Schedule [week-by-week]:

| Date | Topics | Other | Assignments Due |
|------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| January 11 - 17 | Introduction Introduction to the course Introduction to the Canadian legal system Introduction to legal information | Post your introduction Sign up for your Law in the News assignment time slot | |
| January 18 - 24 | Legal Research Basics Legal research process Primary vs. secondary sources Introduction to legal sources | In-class activity (scavenger hunt) | |
| January 25 - 31 | Introduction to Legislation What is legislation? Legislative process How bills become law How and where legislation is published Tracing the progress of bills | In-class activity (BC Laws and Quickscribe) Quickscribe overview video | Law in the News Presenters 1-4 |
| February 1 - 7 | Legislation, Part II Legislative citations Coming into force – Federal and BC Legislative intent – Hansard and other sources | In-class activity (legislative citations) In-class activity (Legislative Assembly) | Law in the News Presenters 5-8 |
| February 8 - 14 | Legislation, Part III Point in time legislative research – Federal and BC Wrapping up legislative topics | In-class activity (tracing legislation) | |
| February 15 - 21 | NO CLASS - Reading break | N/A | |



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| February 22 - 28 | Secondary sources Types and uses | WestlawNext Canada demonstration | Law in the News Presenters 9-12 |
| March 1 - 7 | Courts / Case Law Overview of the Canadian court system Case law sources and research | LexisQuicklaw Advance demonstration | Law in the News Presenters 13-16 |
| March 8 - 14 | Foreign Law Researching other jurisdictions US legal research UK legal research Discussion of final assignment | Time provided to form groups for final assignment and begin group discussions. | Research assignment due Sunday March 14 |
| March 15 - 21 | Reference Services Case law citations Legal reference services Legal research instruction | In-class activity (case law citations) Guest lecture | Law in the News Presenters 17-20 |
| March 22 - 28 | Other Roles for the Law Librarian Future of law and legal information Knowledge Management Competitive Intelligence / Business Development | Guest lecture In-class activity (business development) | Law in the News Presenters 21-25 |
| March 29 - April 4 | Managing the Law Library Collections management Budget Staff Working with other departments Research Assignment review | Legal collections for public libraries video | |
| April 5 - 11 | Firm Tours Group Work Hot topics in the law Course content review Professional development for law librarians | Interviews with law librarians Time to complete teaching evaluations | Subject Guide presentations and materials due Sunday April 11 |
| April 12 - 14 | Class Wrap-Up Group Presentations Subject Guide presentations Course wrap up | | |



Attendance:

The class participation grade will be weighted on attendance, online participation, and effective group work. As I am teaching you how to work in a legal organization, I expect your participation to reflect the professional work attitude expected in such organizations. Completion of each week's content is required. If you know you are going to be absent, or unable to complete the weekly content, please inform me ahead of time, whenever possible.

Evaluation: All assignments will be marked using the evaluative criteria given on the [iSchool web site](#). Any late submissions must be discussed in advance, whenever possible.

Required Materials:

- There is no cost for the reading materials in this course
- There are no software programs required
- Students will require access to Canvas and browser-based materials and systems, as assigned

Academic Concession: If you miss marked coursework for the first time (assignment, exam, presentation, participation in class) and the course is still in-progress, **speak with me immediately** to find a solution for your missed coursework. Any concessions that will result in a change to the student record (such as late withdrawal from the course) will be referred to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies for evaluation. If this is not the first time you have requested concession or classes are over, please consult the [Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' webpage on academic concession](#), and then contact me where appropriate.

Policies and Resources to Support Student Success: UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional 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 and cultural 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 here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>)

Academic Integrity: The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply when the matter is referred to the Office of the Dean. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the [UBC Calendar: Student](#)



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[Conduct and Discipline](#). Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, and self-plagiarism <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959> (§7)

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Academic accommodations help students with a disability or ongoing medical condition overcome challenges that may affect their academic success. Students requiring academic accommodations must register with the [Centre for Accessibility](#) (previously known as Access & Diversity). The Centre will determine that student's eligibility for accommodations in accordance with [Policy LR7: Accommodation for Students with Disabilities \(Joint Senate and Board Policy\)](#). Academic accommodations are not determined by your instructors, and instructors should not ask you about the nature of your disability or ongoing medical condition, or request copies of your disability documentation. However, your instructor may consult with the Centre for Accessibility should the accommodations affect the essential learning outcomes of a course.