

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING
LAWS 1004x/.03
Winter Term Syllabus 2009-2010

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
from January 25 – February 18, or by appointment
Classes: Friday 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Room 105

Winter Term Classes

The winter term is made up of four classes featuring a series of guest instructors.

January 15, 2010	Persuasive Legal Writing Professor David Blaikie
January 22, 2010	How to Write a Legal Memorandum Professor Cynthia Chewter <i>Major Memo Assignment distributed</i>
January 29, 2010	How to Write a Factum Professor Stephen Coughlan
February 5, 2010	Munro Day – No Class
February 12, 2010	Scholarly Writing: How to Write a Research Paper Professor Elizabeth Hughes
February 19, 2010	Major Memo Assignment Due <i>Due by 5:00 p.m. to the Circulation Desk in the Library</i>

Assignment

The winter term legal writing assignment is a major legal memo 10-15 pages in length. The memo is based on one of several hypothetical fact situations. Students are expected to identify the legal problem and produce a fully researched legal memorandum based on the hypothetical fact situation.

The major memo assignment is worth 60% of the final mark. It will be handed out during the January 22, 2010 class. The assignment is due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2010 to the Circulation Desk in the library.

You are required to follow the *McGill Guide to Uniform Legal Citation* (6th ed.) in all of your written work.

Communication

Announcements will be made at the beginning of class. The instructor may also communicate with the class via e-mail to each student's dal.ca account. As students are deemed to have received all e-mail sent to the dal.ca account, students should ensure their account is activated and check it regularly.

Office Hours

My office is in the Administration area near Rose Godfrey. Winter office hours are: Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. commencing on January 25 and running through February 18, 2009.

I am also available by telephone or e-mail and at other times by appointment.

Class Changes and Cancellations

Class changes and cancellations will be communicated in class and/or by e-mail. Reception will also be informed so that a notice can be placed on the classroom door.

Recommended Texts and Resources

The following texts are in addition to those recommended in the fall term.

Thomas A. Cromwell, *Effective Written Advocacy*. Aurora: Canada Law Book, 2008. On reserve: KB 270.D7 E27

Thomas A. Cromwell, *Preparation of Factums*. Aurora: Canada Law Book, 1996. On reserve: KB 270.B8 P92

Terry LeClercq, *Guide to Legal Writing Style*, New York: Aspen Publishers, 2004. On reserve: KB 270.D7 L46 2004

Margaret McCallum and Deborah Schmedemann, *Synthesis: Legal Reading, Reasoning and Writing in Canada* (2nd ed.) Toronto: CCH Canadian, 2008. On reserve: KB 270.D7 M12 2008

Writing workshops, books, and articles on the subject of scholarly writing are available through the Centre for Learning and Teaching at www.learningandteaching.dal.ca or call 494-1963.

Students with Special Needs/Requests for Accommodation

Professor Pothier is the faculty advisor to students with disabilities. Students wishing to discuss in-class accommodation or in-class study assistance needs should see Professor Pothier.

Students seeking special accommodation with regard to any aspect of course evaluation (including exam deferrals and extensions to deadlines) must make an application to the Studies Committee. Academic regulations require such requests to be made as soon possible and, in any event, no later than the date on which the exam is to be written or the paper or other assignment is to be submitted. Students should contact Associate Dean Michael Deturbide or Assistant Dean Elizabeth Hughes for more information about requests for accommodation and about the Studies Committee process.

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Advisory in relation to Academic Continuity

In the event of an escalation of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, the University may need to authorize Academic Units to change elements of class schedules and/or evaluation plans as outlined in course syllabi. Any change is intended to support the primary goal of reducing the risk of spreading a pandemic influenza among students, faculty and staff.

Although it is difficult to predict the severity of the pandemic, the University is committed to minimizing the impact on student's academic progress. Therefore, every effort will be made to provide students with options for continued learning and for continued fair evaluations.

Changes may include but are not limited to:

- Adjustments to course assignments;
- Changes to the dates of exams;
- Arrangements for alternative evaluations for students affected by H1N1;
- Adjustments to work terms;
- Modification of marks awarded for participation;
- Adjustments to attendance policies.

Any alternative plan made in individual courses may be superseded by University-wide or Government measures to reduce the spread of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus.