

University of Western Ontario
Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Winter Term 2019

LIS 9318 Legal Information Sources and Services
Stephen Coulstring, BSc, BA, BEd, MA, MLIS

Class	Room	Email	Phone	Office	Office Hour
Mondays 1:30 to 4:30	FNB 2230	scolstr@uwo.ca	(519) 204 0947	FNB 4134	Mondays 12:20 to 1:20

Description, Goal, and Objectives

Course Description

This course features primary and secondary sources of legal information and their use. Primary sources include bills, statutes, regulations, and cases; secondary legal sources include blogs, articles, conference proceedings, and textbooks. Students will explore the use of these sources in a variety of formats and study their application to the information needs of academic, public, government, and legal practitioner clientele.

Prerequisite: LIS 9003

Goal

Ultimately, this course intends to prepare information professionals for the provision of legal research and related activities in a variety of contexts.

Objectives

1. To analyze the characteristics and needs of legal information users.
2. To study the various types of institutions providing legal information.
3. To examine methods of organizing legal materials.
4. To identify methods of providing legal information services.
4. To develop an awareness of the sources of legal information.
5. To consider the role of the information professional in legal information transactions.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Students are expected to attend class and participate.

All students are required to submit:	Weight	Assigned	Due
Definitions Assignment	15%	Jan 7	Jan 18
Business Case	30%	Jan 14	Feb 1
Topical Pathfinder or Foreign Country Legal Pathfinder	35%	Jan 21	Feb 15
Pathfinder Presentation	20%	Assorted dates in Mar and Apr	

Please cite in accordance with the assignment instructions. Assignments are due on that date specified. Submit them on OWL in MS Word format. Six grace days are available for use. Notify the instructor that you are using grace days in advance. Extenuating circumstances for late assignments include serious emergencies or illnesses documented with a doctor's note. Grades for assignments received late without prior permission will be reduced by one grade point per day.

Academic Integrity

The foundation of academic life includes respect for the ideas of others and an acknowledgement of their rights to those ideas. All who participate in the academic community should take the utmost care to appropriately handle, and, where necessary, cite the ideas of other thinkers and authors. Whenever students take an idea or passage from a text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Scholastic offences such as plagiarism are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

While portable technology is welcome in the classroom, messaging, online social networking activities, or other activities during lecture or guest presentations that disrupt class or interfere with instruction are not welcome.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Course Schedule (Mondays 1:30 to 4:20.)

Class 1: January 7

Hour 1: a. Introductions b. History of Legal Information

Hour 2: a. History of Legal Librarianship b. Types of Legal Information and users

Hour 3: a. Canadian Legal System b. Legal Publishers in Canada

Class 2: January 14 * FIMS lab for second and third hour of class

Hour 1: a. Canadian Legislation b. Canadian Jurisprudence

Hour 2: a. Business Cases b. *CanLII* lab

Hour 3: a. *CanLII* lab continued

Class 3: January 21 Academic Law Library Tour

* Meet at the law library for the first hour of class

* Regroup at FIMS lab for second and third hour of class

Hour 1: Tour

Hour 2: *Lexis Advance Quicklaw* Lab

Hour 3: *Lexis Advance Quicklaw* lab continued

Class 4: January 28 * FIMS lab for second and third hour of class

Hour 1: Topical Presentation: Amusement Parks

Hour 2: *WestlawNext Canada* lab

Hour 3: *WestlawNext Canada* Lab continued

Class 5: February 4 * Location: London Courthouse and London Public Library Main Branch

Hour 1: Tour of Middlesex Law Association

Hour 2: London Public Library Tour

Class 6: February 11

Hour 1: Librarianship in the private firm context * Guest

Hour 2: Foreign legal research

Hour 3: Foreign legal research continued

February 18 No Class FIMS Reading Week

Class 8: February 25 * FIMS LAB

Hour 1: *Justis* Lab

Hour 2: *Lexis-Nexis* Lab

Hour 3: Legal Research in the United States

Class 9: March 4

Hour 1: a) Legislative Intent b) Updating Statutes and Regulations

Hour 2: UK legal research

Hour 3: Legal Communication

Class 10: March 11

Hour 1: Due Diligence and Risk Management

Hour 2: London Public Library Tour

Class 11: March 18

Hour 1: 3 student presentations (10 min + 5 min for questions)/presentation

Hour 2: 3 student presentations

Hour 3: 3 student presentations

Class 12: March 25

Hour 1: 3 Student presentations

Hour 2: 3 Student presentations

Hour 3: 3 Student presentations

Class 13: April 1

Hour 1: 3 Student presentations

Hour 2: 3 Student presentations

Hour 3: 3 Student presentations

Class 14: April 8

Hour 1: 3 Student presentations

Hour 2: a) Trends in legal research b) Course debrief