

# LIS 9318 Legal Information Fall 2020

## Brief Course Description

Course Title: Legal Information

Course Code: LIS 9318

Course Time: Synchronous instruction Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Other instruction will be asynchronous.

This course consists of lectures, labs, and discussions. Labs are planned for the following legal electronic databases: *WestlawNext Canada*, *Lexis Advance Quicklaw*, and *Nexis Uni*. Additional instruction will include *HeinOnline* and *Justis*. Planned guests for synchronous sessions include a law librarian from a local law firm, a law association librarian, and an academic law librarian.

## Instructor Information

Stephen Coulstring BSc, BA(Hon), BEd, MA, MLIS Western University

Lecturer, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, Western University  
Research Specialist, Knowledge & Research Program, Canada Revenue Agency

Phone Number: 519 204 0947

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Instructional Experience: LIS 9323 Business Information  
LIS 9318 Legal Information  
LIS 9316 Government Information  
LIS 9319 Science, Technology, and Medical Information

Stephen Coulstring has more than 20 years experience as a government/special librarian. His professional interests include legal and business research in foreign jurisdictions and public records research. His personal interests include music, travel, cuisine, and mentoring.

## Course Description

This course considers the information requirements of those who consult and use legal information. Focus occurs on the provision of library and information services to clients in those environments. A range of information sources, including legislation, jurisprudence, and commentary is surveyed.

## Course policies

### Writing

Professional, grammatically correct writing is expected. This means that spelling, punctuation, and grammar are part of assignment evaluation. If you need assistance with writing, find someone whose writing skills you trust to review your written work or visit the Writing Support Centre (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>).

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following site: ([http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)).

## Attendance

Attendance at all synchronous classes is mandatory. Please see the section on attendance in the MLIS Graduate Handbook. Allowances will be made for attendance at professional conferences, job interviews, and other valid reasons only if you are in good standing in the course AND if you consult with me in advance of your absence.

## Communication

The instructor plans to respond within 24 hours to all relevant course email that is sent to the instructor's attention.

## Assignments

Assignments should have single-spaced lines. Assignments have due dates and instructions posted to the course site on OWL. Assignments are due unless other arrangements apply. Late assignments without prior arrangement or accommodation for illness are subject to a penalty of ½ a grade per day.

## Grading

Grading will conform to the guidelines published in the MLIS Graduate Student Handbook ([http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P269\\_25111](http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P269_25111)).

## Accommodation for Illness

Documentation for an illness will not be required unless it is requested by the instructor. Upon such a request, the student should submit documentation to the FIMS Dean's office. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Illness can be consulted for further information ([http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)).

## Support Services

Students are directed to support services that are provided by the University of Western Ontario. These support services include the following:

Office of the Registrar (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)

USC services such as peer support, food support, inclusivity programming, transportation, and health services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)

Student Development Centre (<http://sdc.uwo.ca/>)

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.

## Methods of Evaluation

Students are required to attend class, participate, and submit the following assignments:

<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Definitions Assignment	15%
Business Case	25%
Legal Topic Report	25%
Legal Topic Presentation*	20%
Participation**	15%

\*This solo presentation is drawn from the legal topic report assignment. It offers an opportunity for students to share their findings with the class. Various presentation dates during the final weeks of the course are available for selection by students. Online presentations by Zoom or MS Teams are planned.

\*\*the participation grade involves forum postings and completion of lab exercises.