

**FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA STUDIES**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**Legal Issues for Information Professionals**  
**LIS 9158: Winter Term 2022**

**Instructor:** Dr. Samuel E. Trosow, Associate Professor  
Faculty of Information & Media Studies and Faculty of Law  
**Class Meets:** Wednesday 1:30- 4:20pm.  
**Office Hours:** tbd  
**Email:** [strosow@uwo.ca](mailto:strosow@uwo.ca)

**Course Description:**

Law impacting the information professional will be explored (legal underpinnings of various information organizations, intellectual freedom, access, privacy, personal data protection, copyright). Consideration of such themes as professionalism and the information professional's role in law reform, the Canadian Charter, technological innovation and the concept of information underlying current legal constructs.

**Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:**

- 1) To introduce students to various areas of policy-making in the legal context affecting the information field;
- 2) To provide students with the opportunity for sufficient grounding in the relevant areas of the law to permit the students to be confident to effectively express opinions, in the relevant forums, reflecting the information professional's expertise;
- 3) To allow students to gain familiarity with the legal context of various work environments for information professionals in order to allow the students to become efficient and effective in any of those contexts.

**Methods of Evaluation**

- **Case Analysis:** 10%
- **Analytical essay:** 20% formal essay (approximately 10 pages) on questions/topics to be circulated.
- **Quizzes (3 @10%)** 4 quizzes held during class session, the lowest grade will be dropped.
- **Class Participation 15%** This class will be conducted in a small seminar format. Attendance is mandatory and the active preparation and participation of every student is critical. Please note that classes may not be recorded or transmitted.
- **Final Written Assignment 25%.**

Late Assignments are subject to a penalty of **5% per day** unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance.

## Other Course Policies:

### **MLIS Grade Range Guidelines and Guidelines for Evaluating Classroom Participation**

are contained in MLIS Student Handbook

[http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P251\\_25303](http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P251_25303)

**Attendance** at and preparation for all scheduled online synchronous sessions is mandatory. Deductions will be made from the participation grade for unexcused/unreported absences. Recording of class sessions is not permitted

**Statement on 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 Web 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)

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

**Enrolment Restrictions:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Library & Information Science as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

### **Accessible Education Western (AEW):**

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with **Accessible Education Western (AEW)**, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both **AEW** and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.