



COURSE DESCRIPTION - FACULTY OF LAW

COURSE NUMBER: 526:B1 **COURSE NAME:** Independent Research Paper

PREREQUISITE COURSES: can depend on the supervising professor

PREREQUISITE FOR: none

CREDITS: 3 **HOURS PER TERM:** 3 **TERM:** 2nd **MAXIMUM ENROLMENT:** N/A

INSTRUCTORS: Any full-time member of the Faculty of Law

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: lecture seminar other X (**independent study**)

METHOD OF EVALUATION: The **primary** method of evaluation is a research paper worth 100% of the grade.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides selected students with the opportunity to undertake an independent research project on an approved topic under the direct supervision of a full-time member of the Faculty of Law, resulting in the submission of a research paper of 8,000 to 10,000 words in length (inclusive of footnotes or endnotes). In addition to advanced knowledge, the independent research paper course is designed to enhance problem solving skills, legal research methodologies and techniques, and legal writing and communication skills. Material submitted for assessment in another course cannot be used in an independent research project.

Students interested in undertaking an independent research paper are strongly encouraged to review the profiles of faculty members found on the Faculty's website to learn more about their various areas of expertise. Interested students should contact faculty members directly to discuss the possibility of supervising an independent research paper. The topic for the research paper needs to be approved by a professor within the Faculty of Law, but ideas can be generated from summer work with a law firm or government department, or from volunteer work with a non-profit organization or charitable organization.

Some students have used their independent research papers to develop a writing sample to accompany a job application. Others have used the Law 526 course as an opportunity to refresh their legal research skills in third year before entering practice, treating Law 526 as an advanced LRWA course. Others have used their research paper to assist a non-governmental organization, charitable organization, or non-profit society, by researching a topic of interest to an organization such as the John Howard Society or the Elizabeth Fry Society, or Human Rights Watch etc. Others have used this course as an opportunity to write a legal research paper to submit to an essay writing competition, such as the Holocaust Remembrance Essay Award hosted by the Faculty of Law, the William Morrow essay competition hosted by the Alberta Law Review, the Sir John A Mactaggart Essay Prize in Environmental Law offered by the Environmental Law Centre, the Allan Falconer Memorial Student Essay Competition in Family Law hosted by the University of British Columbia, the Law School Essay Contest in

Environmental, Energy and Resources Law offered by the Canadian Bar Association, the Sword and Scales competition offered by the military law section of the CBA, or the Ronald St. John Macdonald Young Scholars Award offered by the Canadian Council on International Law. For those with the desire to add a publication to their resumes, there are several law journals in Canada aimed at publishing student-authored work, including *Appeal* (published by the University of Victoria) and the *University of Toronto Faculty Law Review*.

***SPECIAL COMMENTS:** None

EVENING CLASS:

SPECIAL ATTENDANCE:

OTHER:

REQUIRED TEXTS (IF ANY): None