



## COURSE DESCRIPTION - FACULTY OF LAW

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**COURSE NUMBER:** 599:A04/B06/X52 **COURSE NAME:** Low Income Individuals and the Law

**PREREQUISITE COURSES:** None

**PREREQUISITE FOR:** None

**CREDITS:** 9 (3 first term and 6 second term) **HOURS PER TERM:** See description below  
**TERM:** Fall-Winter **MAXIMUM ENROLMENT:** 15 (through application)

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**PROFESSOR:** Catherine Bell, Ron Hopp, and Katherine Weaver

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:** LECTURE SEMINAR X OTHER X

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### METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Clinical component (pass/fail): participation in the mandatory four day (25-30 hour) pre-clinical orientation and training program September 8-11, 2010; completion of 98 clinical hours per term (total 196 hours) as scheduled in consultation with individual placement coordinators (pass/fail based on a learning plan developed in collaboration with placement coordinators and two self/placement evaluations per term); clinical law experiential journal (pass/fail based on weekly journal entries with a pass meeting the minimum standard as set in the clinical orientation program); individual and mandatory group meetings with the academic supervisor.

Seminar Component (second term): attendance at a three hour seminar every week; team preparation and presentation of student led seminar topics; individual research paper on seminar topic.

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course consists of three parts: (i) Pre-Clinical Orientation & Training, (ii) Clinical Placement (6 credits- one 3-credit section in the Fall Term, one 3-credit section in the Winter Term) (iii) Seminar (3 credits). These components are designed to provide substantive and procedural information necessary to commence clinical placements with the Edmonton Community Legal Centre and Legal Aid programs in Edmonton; develop some of the skills necessary in the practice of law, particularly as it applies to low income individuals and other marginalized groups; connect case work, advocacy, and other forms of experiential learning with substantive and theoretical knowledge of legal issues faced by low income individuals; encourage professional responsibility; and share information necessary for a critical understanding of the social, economic, and cultural context of law and legal service delivery.

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### \*SPECIAL COMMENTS:

Students will be selected for this course through an application and interview process. Priority will be given to students that have some previous experience working with low-income communities or other marginalized groups in service capacity, which may include Student Legal Services other volunteer work.

Applicants will be required to submit their resume and a letter of intent outlining their experience and how it has prepared them for the program. Selected applicants will undergo two interviews. The first interview with the academic supervisors of the program and a second interview with a placement agency to assess fit with the agency. Selections will be made in April so that students can make alternative arrangements if they are not selected for this course.

**An information session will be scheduled in March 2011 to provide more information to students interested in this course. Interviews and final selections will be made by the end of April. We will also maintain a waiting list of five students in the event some students drop from the course. However, students who wish to be placed on the wait list must attend the Pre-Clinical Orientation and Training Session. Course registration will occur once the interview process is complete. For further information contact [cbell@law.ualberta.ca](mailto:cbell@law.ualberta.ca).**