

7/14/2010

## **Specialization in Law and Social Justice**

**UBC Faculty of Law has approved a Specialization in Law and Social Justice. Students who fulfill the requirements (below) can be awarded the Specialization. No transcript notification will be made, but a certificate will be given to qualifying students once they have completed the requirements. Qualifying students who want to claim the Specialization should contact the Director of the Specialization (Professor Margot Young) and supply evidence that they have completed the requirements.**

The Specialization in Law and Social Justice recognizes students who focus part of their legal studies on to the use of law to achieve social justice. Requirements for the Specialization also give students who are interested in law and social justice and public interest law guidance as to choice among courses in the upper year curriculum that include such a focus. The Specialization enables these students to show prospective employers expertise in relevant legal fields.

The Specialization is designed two be flexible in order to enable students to take compulsory upper year courses and also to pursue interests in related fields, such as Environmental and Natural Resources Law. It is also designed to permit a focus on particular areas related to social justice, such as human rights or First Nations law.

Courses included in the LSJ Specialization examine law's role in constructing and maintaining social, economic and political inequalities as well as the potential of law to shift inequalities rooted in the social relations of gender, race, Aboriginal status, class, poverty, sexuality, age, disability, religion, or immigration or refugee status. The requirements are set forth below.

**The Specialization requires that students complete 5 courses as specified below:**

- (a) Law 305: *Law, Society and State*;**
- (b) a total of 3 courses from at least two clusters in the list below; and,**
- (c) a course with a practical/community based component, as listed below**

### **(a) Law 305 *Law, Society and State***

This course focuses on the use of law by groups and individuals interested in social justice. In particular, the course will explore both the potential and the problems of using law in the quest for social justice. Law's role in constructing and maintaining social, economic and political inequalities as well as the potential of law to shift inequalities will be examined.

This course is required for students who wish to obtain the Specialization in Law and Social Justice.

**(b) three courses from at least two Social Justice clusters in the following list  
(note: not all are offered every year):**

*Aboriginal Law Cluster*

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Law 200	Aboriginal Peoples and Canadian Law
Law 320	Indigenous Peoples in Comparative and International Law
Law 353	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
Law 354	First Nations Self Government
Law 355	First Nations and the Administration of Justice
Law 358	Topics in First Nations Law Kawaskimhon Aboriginal Rights Moot

*Criminal and Penal Law Cluster:*

Law 401	Penal Policy
Law 405	Topics in Criminal Law (the Law of Homicide OR Sexual Assault)
Law 482	Topics in Procedure & Evidence (Preventing Wrongful Convictions)

*Economic Inequality Cluster:*

Law 311	Property Law & Theory
Law 372	Topics in Social Justice (Poverty: Rights, Social Citizenship and Legal Activism)
Law 385	Social Welfare Law
Law 411	Tax Policy
Law 415	Labour Law
Law 417	Labour Law & Policy
Law 467	Topics in Corporate Law (The Corporation and Society)

*Gender and Sexuality Cluster:*

Law 307	Women, Law and Social Change
Law 308	Feminist Legal Theory
Law 365	Women, Law, and Family
Law 309	Topics in Feminist Legal Studies
Law 368	Law and Sexuality
Law 518	Feminist Studies: Key Themes and Current Debates (by permission of instructor)

*Human Rights Cluster:*

Law 350	Issues of Equality and Social Justice
Law 351	Topics in Human Rights
Law 360	Children and the Law
Law 363	Racism and Law
Law 364	Topics in Race and Law
Law 381	Disabilities and Law
Law 421	Human Rights in the Workplace Wilson Moot

*Immigration and Refugee Law Cluster:*

Law 377	Immigration Law
Law 378	Issues in Immigration and Refugee Law

*International, Historical, Theoretical, and Comparative Dimensions Cluster:*

Law 303	Western Ideas of Law
Law 312	Topics in Philosophy of Law and Theoretical Perspectives: The Rule of Law
Law 313	Legal History
Law 315	Topics in Legal History
Law 319	International Human Rights
Law 326	Globalization and Law
Law 339	Human Rights in Asia
Law 481	Topics in Litigation, Dispute Resolution & Administration of Justice (Intercultural Dispute Resolution)
Law 521	Law and Development (by permission of instructor)
Law 511	International Criminal Law (by permission of instructor)

**(c) Practical/Community Based Component**

Each student must also take a course with social justice content that also has a practical or community based component, e.g. work with or for a community group. This component is satisfied by taking any of the following:

Law 350	Issues of Equality and Social Justice*
Law 381	Disabilities and Law*
Law 372	Topics in Social Justice*
Law 488/489	First Nations Legal Clinic
Law 493/496	Directed Research that includes work for a community group
Law 470	Clinical Criminal Law Innocence Project
Law 490	Clinical Criminal Law
Law 491	Law Students Legal Advice Program
Law 379/380	Externship/Externship Reflection

**Note:** courses with an asterix\* cannot satisfy both the (b) Social Justice Cluster and (c) Community/Practical Component requirements.

If the Community/Practical Component is optional within the course, the student must exercise that option and fulfill the component to use the course to satisfy this requirement.

Students who wish to count a course outside these lists towards their Specialization must obtain special permission from the Director of the Specialization (Professor Margot Young) (during 2010 – 2011).

It is strongly suggested that students taking the Specialization in Law and Social Justice also take some procedural courses such as Administrative Law 210, Civil Procedure 270, Mass Torts and Class Actions (Topics in Tort Law 435), Evidence 280, or Appellate Advocacy 473. The courses provide useful extra expertise in the subject areas.