



A POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION

School of Business
 Program: CST, ITMG
 Option: As above

Course Outline
 BLAW3600

COMPUTERS AND THE LAW**Start Date:** 10/09/07**End Date:** 10/12/10**Total Hours:** 60 **Total Weeks:** 15**Term/Level:** 4 **Course Credits:** 4**Hours/Week:** 4 **Lecture:** 2 **Lab:** 2 **Shop:** 0 **Seminar:** 0 **Other:** 0**v Course Description**

Presents a practical study of Canadian computer, internet and business law, including the legal system, the courts; dispute resolution; torts; contracts (including on-line contracts and electronic signatures); consumer transactions (including on-line sale of goods and consumer protection); employment (including internet use, employee e-mails and other computer-related employment law issues); agency; business organizations; intellectual property (copyrights, trademarks, patents, industrial design, trade secrets, confidential information); software / music piracy, domain names; protection of intellectual property on the internet; regulation of the internet; internet jurisdiction; licenses for software and content; entrepreneurial software, use of a website for advertising and promotion; internet access provider, on-line service provider, and web-site hosting; website liability issues; electronic commerce; computer security and risks; computer crime; spam; computer and internet ethics; privacy issues. Participation in this course, taught by lawyers, prepares you to recognize and feel comfortable with the legal aspects of computers and the internet and the law, and doing business.

v Evaluation

Participation, Presentations, Homework Assignments	30	%	Comments : The exams will be non-cumulative. Participation includes on-time attendance, preparedness for class, and active involvement in classroom discussions. Assignment Details: Presentations will be in-class presentations as arranged with the instructor. Homework assignments will be marked for completion only.
Mid Term @ 35%	35	%	
Final Exam	35	%	
TOTAL	100	%	

v Course Learning Outcomes/Competencies

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- have a general understanding of the law as it applies to business and the internet and recognize the legal issues that affect the internet and those who use it;
- apply legal principles to business situations, and situations involving computers and the internet;
- interact more effectively with lawyers and regulators;
- recognize legal issues in relation to e-commerce and on-line contracts;
- understand legal concerns regarding outsourcing;
- be aware of the legal risks that result from computer security problems and the need to protect employers and clients;
- protect themselves, their employers and clients from claims for negligence, defamation and other torts;
- understand intellectual property rights and the risks to those who violate them deliberately or inadvertently;
- design business, computer and Internet practices to ensure that the rights of the students, their employers and clients are protected and that liability is avoided.

✓ **Verification**

I verify that the content of this course outline is current.


Catherine Ryan, Instructor

10 September 2010

Date


I verify that this course outline has been reviewed.


Program Head/Chief Instructor

10 September 2010

Date

I verify that this course outline complies with BCIT policy.


Dean/Associate Dean

Sept / 2010
Date

Note: Should changes be required to the content of this course outline, students will be given reasonable notice.

✓ **Instructors**

Catherine Ryan

Office Location: SE6-327
Office Hrs.: As posted

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✓ **Learning Resources**

Required: Coursepack for B Law 3600 Computers and the Law

✓ **Information for Students**

Individual Work: Students must have achieved an average of 50% or more in individual course work in order to pass the course.

Assignments: Late assignments or projects will **not** be accepted for marking. Presentations may not be re-scheduled. Assignments must be done on an individual basis unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Makeup Tests, Exams or Quizzes: There will be **no** makeup tests, exams or quizzes. If you miss a test, exam or quiz, you will receive zero marks. Exceptions may be made for **documented** medical reasons or extenuating circumstances. In such a case, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor **immediately**.

Ethics: BCIT assumes that all students attending the Institute will follow a high standard of ethics. Incidents of cheating or plagiarism may, therefore, result in a grade of zero for the assignment, quiz, test, exam, or project for all parties involved and/or expulsion from the course.

Attendance: The attendance policy as outlined in the current BCIT Calendar Policy 5101 will be enforced. Students are required to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken in labs and occasionally in lectures. Students who miss more than 10% of classes may be required to withdraw from the course thereby receiving a failing grade. If students are sick, a medical note is required to avoid these absences from counting towards the 10% limit.

Illness: A doctor's note is required for any illness causing you to miss assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, or exam. At the discretion of the instructor, you may complete the work missed or have the work prorated.

Attempts: Students must successfully complete a course within a maximum of three attempts at the course. Students with two attempts in a single course will be allowed to repeat the course only upon special written permission from the Associate Dean. Students who have not successfully completed a course within three attempts will not be eligible to graduate from the appropriate program.

Course Outline Changes: The material or schedule specified in this course outline may be changed by the instructor. If changes are required, they will be announced in class.

Schedule

Week of	Lecture: Material Covered	Reading	Assignment	Due Date
Sept 7-10	The Canadian Legal System Sources of Law, Constitution Act (1982), Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms	Yates, <i>Legal Fundamentals for Canadian Business</i> , ("Yates" below) p. 1-10	Please write in homework assignments each week as directed by lab instructor	Lab Case Studies to be assigned by Instructor
Sept 13-17	The Courts, The Litigation Process, The Trial and Judgment, Dispute Resolution, Criminal Law	Yates, Ch. 1 p. 10-25	p. 23 questions 4, 5, 14, 15, 30	Lab
	Intentional Torts	Yates, Ch. 2 p. 27-34	p. 49 questions 5, 6, 7, 11	
Sept 20-24	Negligence Product Liability	Yates, Ch. 2 p. 35-43 Takach, <i>Negligence – computer law</i> , p. 364-378	p. 50 questions 16, 18, 20, 23	Lab
	Professional Liability Other Business, Computer and Internet-related Torts	Yates, Ch. 2 p. 45-50		
Sept. 27-Oct. 1	Formation of Contracts Consensus, Consideration	Yates, Ch. 3 p. 55-66	p. 74 questions 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 12, 16, 20, 23	Lab
	Formation of Contracts Legality, Intention, Writing Requirement	Yates, Ch. 3 p. 67-77 Takach, <i>Computer contracts and sales law</i> , p. 378-389		
Oct. 4-8	Contracts: Capacity Contract Disputes: Mistake, Misrepresentation, Duress, Undue	Yates, Ch. 3, p. 67-68 <i>Infants' Act</i> handouts Yates, Ch. 4, p. 93-102	p. 75 question 21 p. 114 questions 1, 2,	Lab

Week of	Lecture: Material Covered	Reading	Assignment	Due Date
	Influence		3, 6, 8, 9	
Oct. 11-15	Contract Disputes: Privity, Assignment Discharging Contractual Obligations Remedies for Breach	Yates, Ch. 4, p. 102-118	p. 115 questions 10, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 27, 28, 29	Lab – review for exam
Oct. 18-22	Midterm Exam – Thursday October 21st in lecture			
Oct. 25-29	Electronic Contracts Electronic Signatures Issues in Electronic Commerce Online Consumer Protection	Geist, <i>Electronic Signatures</i> , p. 79-91 McInnes, <i>Electronic Commerce</i> , p. 421-432 McInnes, p. 440-443		Lab
Nov. 1-5	Intellectual Property Copyright Protecting Copyrighted material on-line, Fair Use Licenses for software and content	Mc Innes, <i>Knowledge based business and intellectual property</i> , p. 119-130 Takach, <i>Licences for software and content</i> , p. 351-364	p. 142 questions 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Lab
Nov. 8-12	No lecture or lab Thursday November 11 th - Remembrance Day			
Nov. 8-12	On-line and computer-related privacy issues; Monitoring employees' e-mails	Mc Innes, <i>Business Law in the Digital Age</i> , p. 130-134 Mc Innes, p. 433-435 Mc Innes, p. 134-144		Lab

Week of	Lecture: Material Covered	Reading	Assignment	Due Date
Nov. 15-19	Intellectual Property, Trade marks Domain Names Intellectual Property, Patents, Trade Secrets, Confidential Information	Takach, <i>Monitoring Employee E-mails</i> , p. 158-166 Jessup, Valacich, Wade, <i>Privacy and Data Protection</i> , p. 146-157, p. 167-203	p. 143 questions 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20	Lab
Nov. 22- 26	Employment Agency	Yates, Ch. 6, p. 217-226, 231-235 Yates, Ch. 6, p. 205-216	p. 235 questions 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17	Lab
Nov. 29- Dec. 3	Methods of Carrying on Business Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, Corporations Introduction to Legal Issues in relation to the Internet, Internet Jurisdiction Developing a Website Website Liability Issues/Website Hosting Use of a Website for Advertising and Promotion Computer Security and Risks Computer Crime Protections of Intellectual Property on the Internet.	Yates, Ch. 7, p. 247-283 <i>The Developing Law of Internet Jurisdiction</i> , p. 315-330 Gahtan, <i>Website Liability Issues</i> Ch. 8, p. 391-403 Gahtan, <i>Use of the Web</i> , p. 405-420 Jessup, <i>Computer Crime</i> , p. 180-204	p. 281 questions 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19	Lab – Exam Review
Dec.6- 10	Final Exam			