

STUDENT LEGAL ASSISTANCE CLINICAL THEORY AND PRACTICE

LAW 686: and 688:

1. ***Student Legal Assistance Clinical Theory*** (Law 686) and ***Clinical Practice*** (Law 688) are full-year 3-credit courses which meet bi-weekly over both fall and winter terms. Students **must** be enrolled in both courses concurrently, commencing in fall term. Grades and credit for Law 686 and Law 688 will be assigned at the end of winter term.
2. The courses are limited to twelve students, with preference given to third year students. Second year students may be admitted at the discretion of the instructor.
3. The course descriptions are as follows:

A. Law 686: *Student Legal Assistance: Clinical Theory*

Students enrolled in SLA Clinical Theory (Law 686) will explore a selection of poverty law and social justice topics related to the work and clients of SLA. Students will examine and critically reflect on systemic barriers which prevent or impede access to justice. Students will develop materials for SLA caseworker use and will also assist in SLA's outreach and access to justice efforts via the delivery of public legal information and education seminars focussed on the needs of marginalized clients.

Students are required to: (1) read assigned materials and participate in class discussions; (2) make presentations in class and to select public groups; and (3) draft precedents and/or materials for SLA caseworker use and prepare legal information and education seminar materials for the public. Attendance is mandatory, unless absence is excused in advance by the instructor.

B. Law 688: *Student Legal Assistance: Clinical Practice*

Students enrolled in SLA Clinical Practice (Law 688) will engage in advanced experiential learning about the practice of law through the carriage of an assigned case load in SLA. Students will participate in all aspects and areas of SLA clinical work including summary criminal offences, family law matters, residential tenancy issues, small claims disputes and traffic offences. Students will develop a range of problem-solving and client management skills including interviewing, counselling, negotiation and dispute settlement. Students will also develop their written and oral advocacy skills through a variety of court and trial processes and via SLA's court-annexed advocacy projects such as trial confirmation process, domestic violence court, bail forfeiture applications etc.

Students are required to: (1) read assigned materials and participate in class discussions and file review; (2) carry an assigned case load of approximately 10 active files selected by the instructor in consultation

with SLA advising lawyers based on complexity and variety and will include matters in civil, criminal and family law; and (3) participate in SLA's court-annexed advocacy projects as assigned, such as trial confirmation, domestic violence court project, bail forfeiture applications etc. .

C. Successful completion of all course components is mandatory for both SLA Clinical Theory and SLA Clinical Practice.

4. Pre-requisites: Crime (Law 410); prior SLA (or equivalent clinical) experience.
Recommended co-requisites: Criminal Process (Law 511), Evidence (Law 507).

5. A. Evaluation in SLA Clinical Theory (Law 686) is based on written and oral work. The course is graded on the university 13-band letter scale, with possible grades ranging from A+ to F.

B. Evaluation in SLA Clinical Practice (Law 688) is based on the carriage of files (ie, the ethical and professionally responsible conduct of matters), file review memoranda and a reflective journal. The course is graded on the university clinical course scale, with possible grades of Credit, D or F.

6. Admission to both courses is at the discretion of the instructor as demand for spots is likely to exceed available supply. Your application must be submitted to Professor Christopher c/o Sue Parsons (MFH 4320) no later than noon on **Friday, July 6, 2018**. If necessary, you may submit your application electronically, to sparsons@ucalgary.ca. Electronic applications should be submitted as one PDF document *only*, not as multiple attachments.

The application should consist of your current CV, your law school transcript and a one-page legal writing sample (maximum 500 words). A cover letter is not required but may be submitted if there are aspects of your background or experience that you feel are not adequately reflected in your CV or transcript. The writing sample may be an excerpt from a paper, factum, memo or brief that you have prepared for law school or law-related employment. Note: if the latter, ensure you have permission and do not breach firm or client confidentiality.