



The Dean's Laptop



Dean Bruce P. Elman

Good plans shape good decisions. That's why good planning helps to make elusive dreams come true.

Lester Robert Bittel

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Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning.

Winston Churchill.

From the Dean's Laptop: Think About those Course Selections

Towards the end of my first year at Dalhousie Law School, all students were required to fill out a two year course selection form and hand it in to the Associate Dean for approval. The first page of the form indicated your choices for the next year while the second page indicated those courses you intended to take in third year (although, in truth, you were not bound by these selections). By requiring students to choose courses for two years, Dalhousie was, effectively, forcing us to think seriously about our future careers and select a sequencing of courses that would enable us to achieve our aspirations. I have always thought that this was an excellent approach and students, nowadays, should do this voluntarily even though we do not require it. Try it! It may help you.

Anyway, on the way to the Associate Dean's Office, you were usually stopped by Professor Art Foote. Art Foote was a legend at Dalhousie. He was a Rhodes Scholar and a brilliant man. He was also completely un-athletic. Indeed, he was a chain smoker. I took Conflicts from him and he didn't stop smoking the entire class. When he applied for the Rhodes, his fellow students believed that he needed to have some major athletic accomplishment to round out his application and so they concocted the Great Dalhousie Law School Mile Race. The night before the Race all of the other competitors spent the evening (and the night and early morning) in a local drinking establishment. One version of the legend is that only Art was fit enough to run the Mile the next morning, and he won, or was declared the winner of the first (and only) Great Dalhousie Law School Mile Race.

But I digress. Professor Foote stopped me and suggested that it might be a good idea if he had a look at my course selections. He looked at my forms intently, seemingly unaware that cigarette ash was falling on his tie and jacket. He picked his head up, stared straight into my eyes and said: "No. This will not do. There is no corporate law, commercial law, or tax in your timetable either this year or next. You

need to take two of the three."

I asked "why? I'm not planning to be a lawyer." Still staring at me, he said: "Because it is important for the development of your mind." So I took Commercial Law and Business Associations and never regretted. In fact, I did my LL.M. thesis at Harvard for Robert Braucher on a comparison of the Sale of Goods Act and the Uniform Commercial Code.

I'm a bit "old school" about course selection. I certainly subscribe to the view that students should take a very healthy mix of courses – foundational, theoretical, "boutique", policy oriented, perspectives, and skills based. But I am a firm subscriber to the Art Foote school of thinking – you need to take fundamental doctrinal courses (which, by the way, are almost never exclusively doctrinal) not because the firms want you to have these courses or because you will be tested on these subjects in the Licensing Exams but rather because they are invaluable in developing the legally trained mind. As an added bonus, these courses also prepare you for almost any career – solo and small firm practice, large firm full service, national mega-firm, boutique, public service, NGOs – domestic or international, or an academic career. Some of my colleagues might dispute my list but, these days, I highly recommend Business Associations, Conflicts, Evidence, Judicial Review, Public International Law, Sales, Secured Transactions, Trusts, and Tax. This amounts to about one year of courses and, even deducting eight credits for Torts and Civil Procedure, you can still take another six or seven courses to define your career aspirations.

My advice: Speak to Francine Herlehy, our Assistant Dean for Student Services, ask your favourite professor, and speak to other students, or graduates. But once you have received all the advice, you still need to sit down and think seriously about your career aspirations, and the best way to achieve them.

Good luck and best wishes for an exciting summer!

Student Services Office



Assistant Dean
(Student Services)

As we begin the registration cycle, we devote this issue of *WINDSOR LAW Matters* to registration. Here are some things you should consider before you start:

1. **Program Requirements:** It is your responsibility to ensure that you meet the requirements for advancement each year and graduation at the end of law three. There are required courses and there are credit requirements that must be met for each academic term and for each academic year. Check your Degree Audit Report on the Student Information System. Review the Registration and Course Selection Materials carefully and contact the Academic Coordinator or the Student Services Office for clarification, if necessary.

2. **Mix it Up:** In his comments in "The Dean's Laptop", Dean Elman suggests that you take a very healthy mix of courses – foundational, theoretical, "boutique", policy oriented, perspectives, and skills based courses. This is great advice! There are courses that, while not formally required, are generally recommended of most law students. Again, review the Registration and Course Selection Materials and seek guidance if you need it.

3. **Pre-Requisites, Anti-Requisites and Co-Requisites:** You must consider pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites when selecting courses. This requires some element of planning. For example, if you want to take Estate Planning and Administration, you must ensure that you will have completed Wills and Succession in advance. Plan for the future!

4. **Preparation for Licensing:** each Provincial Law Society has a different model of licensing. In Ontario, the Licensing Process is self-contained but in some provinces, completion of certain law school courses is required for enrollment. In Ontario, students are examined on entry level competency in a number of substantive areas of law. Many students undertake courses in those areas while in law school so that they have context when entering the Licensing Process.

5. **Career Development:** Your career goals can influence your course selection. For example, there are certain courses that hold greater interest to someone interested in a commercial practice than for those interested in an advocacy based practice. You should have some flexibility to respond to opportunities that are presented for summer, articling and beyond.

6. **Timetable and Examination Schedule:** By the time you reach this step, you will have a list of courses that you are interested in. Some are offered more than once. Consult the Timetable and Examination Schedule to work out a schedule that works best for you and does not create conflict. You must also consider the Examination Schedule.

7. **Counselling:** Remember that there are others who can assist you in this process. I am available to provide academic counselling, in person, by email or by telephone. Just reach out and ask for help. I can be reached by telephone at (519) 253-3000, extension 4230, by email at herlehy@uwindsor.ca or by stopping in G112.

Be prepared, review the Registration and Course Selection Materials thoroughly, check the website frequently for updates, keep updating your list of possible courses in order of priority, utilize the waitlist process and by September 16, 2008 when the registration period ends, you should be all set for another great year.

Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.

Alan Lakein, writer

WEEK	DATES	ACTIVITY
One Year III	Monday, July 6 at 8:30 a.m. until Sunday, July 12 at 11:59 p.m.	Third year students will be permitted to register for two courses in the Fall term and two courses in the Winter term. <i>Registration will be closed to second year students.</i>
Two Year II	Monday, July 13 at 8:30 a.m. until Sunday, July 19 at 11:59 p.m.	Second year students will be permitted to register for two courses in the Fall term and two courses in the Winter term. <i>Registration will be closed to third year students.</i>
Three Year III	Monday, July 20 at 8:30 a.m. until Sunday, July 26 at 11:59 p.m.	Third year students will be permitted to register for their remaining courses in both the Fall and Winter terms. <i>Registration will be closed to second year students.</i>
Four Year II	Monday, July 27 at 8:30 a.m. until Sunday, August 2 at 11:59 p.m.	Second year students will be permitted to register for their remaining courses in both the Fall and Winter terms. <i>Registration will be closed to third year students.</i>
Five	Monday, August 3 at 8:30 a.m. until Tuesday, September 12 at 11:00 p.m.	All students will be permitted to drop/add courses.

Law Library

Hours of Operation

Summer

April 25, 2009—September 7, 2009

Mon—Thurs	8:30 a.m. — 4:20 p.m.
Fri	8:20 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. (noon)
Sat	Closed
Sun	Closed

Exceptions:

Monday, August 3, 2009 (Civic Holiday) - Closed

Monday, September 7, 2009 (Labour Day) - Closed



The ability to concentrate and to use your time well is everything if you want to succeed in business--or almost anywhere else for that matter.

Lee Iacocca

Important things to remember regarding registration:

It is your responsibility to read and be familiar with the registration materials to ensure that you have met the term, academic year and degree requirements.

Course registration through the SIS begins on Monday, July 6, 2009 and will run until Monday, September 21, 2009.

Of the 13-18 credits required each term, you can register for 14-16 credits through online registration. If you wish to register for less than 14 credits or more than 16 credits, you must do so through the Academic Coordinator.

We recommend that you check the registration system regularly throughout the registration period if you have not been able to register in a course. Places open up throughout the registration period as other students add and drop courses.

It is your responsibility to review the Faculty of Law website for registration updates.

No other notification of updates will be provided.

All second year students must successfully complete Torts I and Civil Procedure.

Some courses satisfy both the research paper & perspectives requirements.

You can not register in courses that overlap on the timetable.

Application for Religious Accommodations are due September 21, 2009 for the Fall term and January 15, 2010 for the Winter term.

Fees must be paid on or before August 17, 2009 for the 2009 Fall term and

December 15, 2009 for the 2010 Winter term to avoid a late payment penalty.

A year from now you may wish you had started today.

Anonymous



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2009

August 1	Last day to file application for Fall graduation
August 3	Civic Holiday (statutory holiday). University closed
September 7	Labour Day (statutory holiday)
September 8	Registration for First Year Law students. Classes begin for Second and Third Year Law students.
September 8 - 11	Orientation for First Year Law.
September 14	Classes begin in First Year Law.
September 21	Last day for course changes in Law.
October 12	Thanksgiving Day (statutory holiday). University closed.
October 17	Fall Convocation.
December 7	Last day of classes in Law.
December 10	Fall term examinations begin in Law.
December 15	Winter term fees are due and payable.
December 23 - Jan 3	University offices closed for December Holiday recess.

2010

January 4	Classes begin in Law.
January 15	Last day of course changes for Law.
February 15	Family Day Holiday. University closed.
February 22 - 26	Study week for Law.
February 26	Law offices closed.
March 1	Last day to file an application for Spring graduation.
April 2	Good Friday. University closed.
April 9	Last day of classes for Law.
April 12	Winter final examinations begin in Law.
May 24	Victoria Day (statutory holiday). University closed.
June 18	Spring Convocation.
July 1	Canada Day (statutory holiday). University closed.
August 1	Last day to file application for Fall graduation.
August 2	Civic Holiday (statutory holiday). University closed.

NOTE: Some Faculty of Law deadline dates, policies and procedures may not necessarily coincide with those in the general University Calendar: Faculty of Law dates, policies, and procedures supercede and govern.