

- Faculté de droit
- www.unine.ch/droit

Lawyering Skills and Legal Writing (4DR2182)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master bilingue en droit	Cours: 2 ph	écrit: 2 h	4
Master en droit	Cours: 2 ph	écrit: 2 h	4

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante:

REARDON Michael J, Chargé d'enseignement.

Objectifs:

This course will examine the skills that a good lawyer needs to develop and will focus on applying these skills in effective written communication. Lists of relevant vocabulary and legal terms will be reviewed for each of the areas of law examined in order to create a bank of knowledge that will facilitate future professional communications in English.

Contenu:

The course will consist of a series of practical exercises including, (a) selecting and retaining counsel, (b) responding to cease and desist letters and consumer complaints, (c) negotiating and drafting key clauses in commercial contracts, (d) resolving contentious issues, and (e) reviewing compliance with regulatory guidelines and corporate codes of conduct. Case studies of major judicial decisions will be conducted and important current legal developments will be analyzed.

Forme de l'évaluation:

A written examination involving a case study, and incorporating legal, grammatical and stylistic elements, will take place at the end of the semester. No documentation, books, computers or other devices are allowed during the examination. Anyone discovered using any such documents or devices will be deemed to be in contravention of academic standards and will receive a failing note for the course. Grades will be adjusted to reflect written assignments and contributions to class discussions.

Documentation:

The documentation for the course will consist of PowerPoint slides and other course materials which will be provided on the Moodle course website. The purchase of two reference books: (1) Legal Writing in Plain English (Second Edition © 2013), by Bryan A. Garner, and (2) The Elements of Style, by William Strunk, Jr. & E.B. White (Fourth Edition © 2000), are strongly recommended.

Forme de l'enseignement:

The course will combine lectures with discussion of case materials. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions, to submit written responses to the scenarios raised in the various practical exercises, and to constructively analyze the submissions of classmates.