

- 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	Voir ci-dessous	4
Master en droit	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	4

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

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

ANDRES Paul, Chargé d'enseignement.

Objectifs

The course objectives are to identify, learn and practice certain key skills that a good lawyer needs to develop, with a focus on effective written and oral communication in a legal context. This includes learning about conventional legal writing formats, drafting legal texts, practicing oral expression and advocacy in a supportive environment, and developing transactional and dispute resolution skills via group exercises. The course is designed to deliver knowledge and hands-on experience of essential skills that lawyers should master.

Contenu

The course will concentrate on the following skills and corresponding forms of legal writing, 1. (a) interviewing and counseling clients, (b) legal memoranda and client e-mails; 2. (a) negotiating and documenting commercial transactions, (b) term sheets and contract clauses; 3. (a) resolving contentious issues, (b) demand letters and settlement clauses. The course will also examine various concepts and techniques for clear and effective legal writing and oral advocacy.

Forme de l'évaluation

Students will take a written examination at the end of the semester that will require answering questions about lawyering skills and drafting a formal legal memorandum with proper legal reasoning and expression. The exam is closed book. No documentation, books, computers, telephones or other devices are allowed during the examination. Class attendance and participation are essential. Grades may be positively adjusted to reflect class attendance and participation.

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 is recommended : (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).