

- 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:

Paul Andres

Objectifs:

Objectives: 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 communication in a legal context. This notably includes various formats, conventions and terminology which are specific to legal writing.

Contenu:

Content: the course will concentrate on the following skills and corresponding forms of legal writing, (a) interviewing and counseling clients - legal memoranda and client e-mails, (b) negotiating and documenting commercial transactions - term sheets and contract clauses, (c) resolving contentious issues - demand letters and settlement clauses. The course will also generally examine various concepts and techniques for clear and effective legal writing, including structure, phrasing, word choice, layout, persuasion, and advocacy.

Forme de l'évaluation:

Assessment: a written examination involving a case study, and incorporating legal, grammatical and stylistic elements, will take place at the end of the semester. The exam is closed book. No documentation, books, computers, telephones or other devices are allowed during the examination. Grades will be adjusted to reflect written assignments and participation in class exercises and discussions.

Documentation:

Teaching and study materials: 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).

Forme de l'enseignement:

Teaching method: the course will consist of lectures, occasional guest presentations by experienced lawyers, in-class exercises, and assigned homework. Students will be expected to participate in class exercises and discussions, to submit written homework assignments on time, and to provide constructive comments to classmates.