

## Course Outline

**COURSE:** LAWS 1000 B - Introduction to Legal Studies

**TERM:** Fall - Winter 2013 - 2014

**PREREQUISITES:**

**CLASS:** **Day & Time:** Mondays 12:35 – 14:25  
**Room:** Please check with Carleton Central for current room location

**INSTRUCTOR:** Amy Conroy  
**(CONTRACT)**

**CONTACT:** **Office:** Loeb B442  
**Office Hrs:** Fall: Tuesdays 10:30-12:00 / Winter: Fridays 11:30 – 1:00  
**Email:** amyconroy@connect.carleton.ca

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You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a basic introduction to the field of Canadian legal studies with an overall aim of providing a basic knowledge of the foundations of Canadian law, including its core concepts, sources, nature, structure and function. Lectures will cover the historical and constitutional foundations of the Canadian legal system, the process of law making in Canada, the roles of key legal actors and institutions (e.g. legislatures, judges, lawyers and lay persons), and the way the law has been interpreted to effect social change or to support societal interests. Discussions will also focus on issues relating to access to justice, the financial realities of the Canadian legal system, and alternative

approaches to resolving legal disputes. Beyond focusing on the legal issues covered in the course materials and lectures, this course aims to build skills in reasoning, exam preparation, and essay writing.

The course will be delivered through two-hour lectures (weekly) and one-hour group workshops (weekly). In order to succeed in this course, students should complete readings before attending lectures, and should attend all lectures and workshops. All materials covered in the readings, lectures, and workshops are examinable. Discussion groups start in the second week of class.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students should leave this course with the ability to:

1. Critically evaluate the principles and purposes of Canadian law from a socio-legal perspective
2. Discuss how Canadian law shapes the various relationships that exist between individuals, groups, and state institutions
3. Understand how researchers approach scholarship of Canadian law and why it is important to think of law from an interdisciplinary perspective
4. Identify and critically evaluate arguments, claims or evidence in socio-legal academic sources
5. Access, read and understand primary and secondary socio-legal academic sources

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Kazmierski, Dickson-Gilmore, Kuzmarov, Moore, Tasson, *Introduction to Legal Studies Series* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Concord, ON: Captus Press, 2010): "The Case Book"

Steven Vago & Adie Nelson, *Law and Society* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto, ON: Pearson, 2014).

### **EVALUATION**

\*All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade. Failure to complete any one component in the course will result in a failing grade in the course.

Article Summary	Critical summary of a scholarly article that will be assigned in lecture on September 30 <sup>th</sup> (note that you must use the article that is assigned and may not choose to summarize another article). The summary will be due at the beginning of the lecture on October 21 <sup>st</sup> . Further guidance on the structure of the assignment will be provided in class when the article is assigned. Approximate length of submission: 3 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font (4 page maximum).	10%
Case Brief	You will be required to read and brief a case assigned by the instructor. The case will be identified in lecture on November 11 <sup>th</sup> and will be due at the beginning of the lecture on November 25 <sup>th</sup> . Approximate length of submission: 3 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font (4 page maximum).	15%
Midterm	Multiple choice questions, held during formal exam period in December (questions will be drawn from readings, lectures, assignments, and workshops covered up to and including December 9 <sup>th</sup> )	25%
Essay	You will submit a critical essay examining an issue from the course material. There will be a choice of 3 topics. The topics along with further instructions will be distributed in lecture on January 13 <sup>th</sup> . Essays are due at the beginning of the lecture on March 10 <sup>th</sup> . Approximate length of submission: 5 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font (7 page maximum).	20%
Final Exam	Multiple choice questions, held during formal exam period in April (questions will be drawn from readings, lectures, assignments, and workshops covered throughout the entire course, up to and including the final lecture on April 7 <sup>th</sup> )	30%

### LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will be marked down 5% per day from the due date onwards (including weekend days). Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances, such as severe illness of the student or death of a family member. Do not assume that an extension will be granted: contact your TA as soon as you become aware that an extension may be needed. Supporting documentation will be required for all extensions. Please note that no extensions will be granted for computer failure or conflicts with

work schedules. If you are requesting an extension on or after the due date, be prepared to show that you have worked on the assignment up to that point.

### **SUBMISSIONS OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

The article summary, case brief, and essay are all due at the beginning of the lecture occurring on the due date. Assignments will be submitted to the TA at the *beginning* of the lecture, and students arriving after the assignments have been collected and the lecture has begun will have their assignments marked as one day late. No email submissions will be accepted and your assignment will not be considered submitted until your TA receives it in hardcopy. If you are unable to submit your assignment in class on the day of the lecture, you are responsible for arranging submission with your TA *in advance* of the deadline. Assignments submitted in the drop box during or after the lecture on the day the assignment is due will be marked late according to the date stamp affixed by the office.

### **APPEALING GRADES ON ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students who have questions about the grade they receive on an assignment or who wish to challenge the grade must make an appointment with the T.A. who marked the assignment. Appeals will only be considered during the two-week period after the assignment has been returned – no appeals will be entertained after this time frame has passed. The instructor will not entertain appeals of grades that have not first been discussed with the T.A.

### **PLAGIARISM AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL OFFENCES:**

The University's policy concerning plagiarism and other instructional offences is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar (see particularly regulation 14 – Instructional Offences). Please familiarize yourself with this policy and note that all cases of suspected plagiarism will be reported to the Department. For more information on Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy, see: <http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>.

Students having difficulty with written assignments should make consult one of the following resources:

- The Writing Tutorial Service
- Student Academic Success Centre
- The Learning Commons

### **PASS PROGRAM:**

This course receives support from the Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) Program. PASS is a learning enhancement program designed to organize and improve the ways in which students prepare for class. Participation is voluntary (but encouraged) and open to all students in the

course. Our PASS facilitator is Biatrix Lasu ([BiatrixLasu@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:BiatrixLasu@cmail.carleton.ca)). The facilitator will provide more information on this program in the first lecture and throughout the course.

### **COURSE WEBSITE:**

Please note that this course will be administered with the use of a CULearn course website. You are responsible for checking the course page regularly for any updates or important messages.

### **SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic and Readings</b>	<b>Discussion Group Topic</b>
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Intro and Overview of the Course</b> No readings	No discussion group
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Types, Functions, and Dysfunctions of Law</b> Vago & Nelson Chapter 1	Lecture note-taking
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Making the Law</b> Case Book Chapter 8 & 9, Vago & Nelson Chapter 4	Accessing academic articles, statutes, and case law / Reading academic articles
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Law in Social Life</b> Case Book: Chapter 1, Vago & Nelson Chapter 9  *Article for summary assignment will be identified in lecture	Reading and citing statutory provisions
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Law and Culture</b> Case Book: Chapter 2	Article assignment question and answer / Review of formality requirements for article summary assignment
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Statutory Holiday –No classes</b>	N/A
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Law and the Constitution</b> Case Book: Chapter 3  *Article summary due at beginning of lecture	Reading and citing case law
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fall Break</b> No readings	No tutorial
Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Law, Morality, and Justice</b> Case Book: Chapter 5	Studying for and writing multiple choice exams

Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Law and Social Control</b> Vago & Nelson Chapter 5  *Case for briefing assignment will be identified in lecture	Return and review of article summary assignment
Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Law and Social Change</b> Vago & Nelson Chapter 7	Case brief assignment question and answer / Review of formality requirements for case brief assignment
Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regulating Relationships</b> Case Book Chapter 14  *Case brief due at beginning of lecture	Semester review / question and answer period
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>The Criminal Law</b> Case Book Chapters 12 & 13	Semester review / question and answer period
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Semester Review and Exam Preparation</b>	Return of case brief assignment and assignment overview
<b>Holiday Break</b>		
Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dispute Resolution</b> Vago & Nelson Chapter 6	No tutorial
Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Adjudication</b> Case Book Chapter 17  *Essay topics distributed in lecture	Mid-term exam recap and review
Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Alternatives to Adjudication</b> Case Book Chapter 18 & 19	Thinking critically
Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Access to Justice: Income Issues</b> Case Book Chapter 20	Academic Integrity
Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Access to Justice: Procedural Issues</b> Case Book Chapter 21	Planning and organizing an academic essay / Review of expectations for essay
Feb. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lawyers, Advocates, and Legal Practice in Canada</b> Case Book Chapter 22	Using the McGill Guide to uniform legal citation
Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Winter Break</b> No readings	No tutorial
Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Juries</b> Case Book Chapter 23	Supporting your arguments with academic sources
Mar. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Judges</b> Case Book Chapter 24	Editing your essay

Mar. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Law Enforcement</b> Case Book Chapter 25  *Essay due at beginning of lecture	Compiling notes for exam study
Mar. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Charter of Rights and Social Change</b> Case Book Chapter 26	Exam Preparation & Review
Mar. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Emerging Challenges in Law</b> Case Book Chapter 15	Exam Preparation & Review
Mar. 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Exam Review: First Semester Materials</b>	Return and review of Essay
Apr. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Exam Review: Second Semester Materials</b>	Question and answer period for exam study