

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed as a basic introduction to the field of Canadian legal studies. As such, it has two basic objectives. The first objective is to provide a basic knowledge of the foundations of law and the legal system in Canada. Students will learn about the sources of law in Canada, the structure and function of legal institutions, the process of law-making and the various actors in the legal process. The second objective of the course is to provide students with the tools to begin to think critically about the role of law in Canadian society. Students will be introduced to various theoretical perspectives concerning the role of law in shaping relationships between individuals and groups as well as relations between the state and society. The ways in which the law may be manipulated to serve particular societal interests will also be considered. Ultimately, students will consider whether law should be considered an effective or desirable method of achieving social change.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Texts Available at the Carleton University Bookstore (Please note: good quality, second-hand copies of these texts are often available at reduced prices at Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street, Ottawa (tel. 613-730-9888); please be certain you are purchasing the correct edition of the texts if you are purchasing second-hand copies. Check the ISBN numbers to be sure they match the editions you require).

1. Steven Vago & Adie Nelson, *Law and Society* (3rd Canadian Edition), (Toronto: Pearson Education Inc., 2003); ISBN-13: 978-0-13-506465-8.
2. Carleton University Department of Law Casebook Group, *Introduction to Legal Studies*, 4th Edition (Concord: Captus Press, 2010); ISBN 978-1-55322-228-6.

FORMAT OF THIS COURSE:

Laws1000 is taught through a combination of lectures and discussion groups. Lectures are held for two hours, once per week of term; online discussion groups are approximately one-hour in length and either follow or precede the lecture. Discussion groups start in the second week of classes, and will consist of an opportunity to review current course materials/subjects, and structured assistance in completing assignments and writing exams. Students do not receive any marks for participating in online discussion groups, but should recognize that success in the course is greatly enhanced if students participate in online discussions and keep up with lectures and reading assignments. Please note that *all materials covered in lectures, discussion groups and readings constitute examinable material for which students will be held responsible.*

EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES:

There are five formal evaluation components in this course: three assignments and two multiple choice exams. Examinations will be held in the regular examination periods in December 2012 and April 2013; assignments must be completed and submitted electronically to the appropriate Teaching Assistant via their webct email by 4:30 p.m. on the due date. Papers submitted in any other fashion will not be accepted; late papers will not be accepted save in the case of a documented medical excuse or similarly serious and unforeseen circumstance. Details of the late submission policy are outlined below.

Assignment 1 – worth 10% This assignment consists of a critical summary (750 words, roughly 3 pages) of a scholarly article.

Due November 2, 2012, by 4:30 p.m. Assignments must be submitted electronically via webct email in advance of this deadline. Students will email their papers directly to the TA, whose contact information will be provided on webct in the first week of term.

- Assignment 2 - worth 10%** **This assignment will require the construction of a case brief (no more than 750 words, roughly 3 pages) from a case assigned by the instructor.**
- Due February 15, 2013 by 4:30 p.m. Assignments must be submitted electronically via webct email in advance of this deadline. Students will email their papers directly to the TA, whose contact information will be provided on webct in the first week of term.**
- Assignment 3 - worth 20%** **This assignment will consist of a case analysis of no more than 1500 words in which students will be required to critique a decision through a theoretical lens discussed in class.**
- Due March 15, 2013, by 4:30 p.m. Assignments must be submitted electronically via webct email in advance of this deadline. Students will email their papers directly to the TA, whose contact information will be provided on webct in the first week of term**
- First Term Exam – worth 30% to be held during the formal exam period.** The exam will consist of multiple choice questions only.
- Second Term Exam – worth 30% to be held during the formal exam period.** The exam will consist of multiple choice questions only.

Note: **Failure to complete all assignments and exams in the course will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the course.** Deferrals will not be granted unless all assignments have been handed in.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will be marked down 2 marks for each day submitted after the due date (including week-end days). Extensions will only be given out in extreme circumstances, such as severe illness of the student or death of a family member. Appropriate documentation will be required to accompany requests for extensions. Computer failure, conflicts with work schedule or similar problems are not a valid excuse for failure to submit an assignment on time.

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 within two weeks of receiving the marked assignment. 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). In particular, students should note that a student commits an instructional offence if he or she "submits substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors from all courses involved. Minor modifications and amendments, such as changes of phraseology in an essay or paper, do not constitute a significant and acceptable reworking of an assignment". Students should also note that it is an instructional offence to commit plagiarism, which is defined as "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product work of another without expressly giving credit to another".

POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT:

The Department of Law's Policy and Procedure Statement is distributed with, and forms part of, this course outline. The statement contains important information on topics such as the submission of assignments, due dates in course outlines, offenses, writing skills and use of language, prerequisites, course selection, responsibility for ensuring enrolment in a class, and review of grades, among other information. **Please read the Policy and Procedure Statement carefully.**

A FEW ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS:

- Try to stay on top of the reading assignments in this course. As with most first year survey courses, there is a great deal of reading, and it can pile up very quickly and become overwhelming. Organize your time by spending as much time preparing for class as you spend in class – for example, you have three hours of lecture and discussion group weekly; you should be spending at least that amount of time preparing for class, and allocate more time when assignment deadlines or exams are looming.
- If you are having trouble understanding the material in the course, speak to your T.A. or the instructor sooner rather than later. We are here to help you learn.
- Students having difficulty with writing assignments should check-out the many resources available on campus to help students succeed. These include: The Writing Tutorial Service (Library 4th Floor); Student Academic Success Centre (302 Tory); and The Learning Commons (Library 4th Floor).

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Lecture Topic and Readings</u>	<u>Discussion Group Topic</u>
1	Introduction to Legal Studies No Readings	Discussion Groups will not start until second week of classes
2	Law in Social Life Casebook, 1(a)-(c); Vago & Nelson, Chapter 1.	Lecture Note Taking: Why and how to do it well
3	Law and Culture Casebook, 2(a)-(d)	Taking Effective Reading Notes
4	Law, the State and the Constitution Casebook, 3(a)-(c)	Reading and understanding academic texts: the '3Rs' of effective reading
5	Law, Rights and the Charter Casebook, 10(b)-(d); 11(d)-(e)	Assignment 1
6	Making the Law: Common Law and Legislation Casebook, 8(a)-(d); Vago & Nelson, Chapter 4.	Assignment 1
7	The Organization and Structure of Canadian Law Vago and Nelson, Chapter 3.	Assignment 1
8	Law, Morality and Justice Casebook, 5(a)-(e) <i>Assignment One due this week!</i>	Preparing for a Multiple Choice Exam & Compiling Effective Notes
9	Regulating Behaviour: Law, Crime and Social Control Vago & Nelson, Chapter 5; Casebook, 13(a)-d).	How to Succeed at Multiple Choice Exams
10	Regulating Relationships Casebook, 14 (a)-(e)	Review of Fall Term course materials
11	Dispute Resolution Vago & Nelson, Chapter 6; Casebook, 16 (a)-(b)	Mock Exam & Review
12	Adjudication Casebook, 17(a)-(d)	Mock Exam & Review
	FIRST TERM EXAM TO BE HELD IN FORMAL EXAM PERIOD	

SECOND TERM

13	Alternatives to Adjudication Casebook, 18(a)-(d)	Tutorials will begin in week 14
14	Settlement and Collaboration in the Legal Process Casebook, 19 (a)-(c)	Review of Exam
15	Access to Justice: Income Issues Casebook, 20(a)-(b)	Review of Assignment 1
16	Lawyers & Lawyering Casebook, 22(b)-(f); Vago & Nelson, Chapter 8	Assignment 2, Part I: Locating and Reading the Case
17	Juries Casebook, 23(a)-(c)	Assignment 2, Part II: The Brief
18	Judges Casebook, 24(a)-(h)	Assignment 2, Part II cont: Common Mistakes in a Case Brief
19	Enforcing the Law Casebook, 25 (a)-(c) <i>Assignment Two due this week!</i>	Assignment 2, Part III: Finalizing the Brief
20	No lecture this week due to F/W Reading Week – Classes Suspended	Discussion groups also suspended
21	Law, Liberalism and the Critics Casebook, 6(a)-(f)	Understanding Theory & Critique
22	Connecting Law & Society Casebook, 7(a)-(c)	Assignment 3: Case Critique – Understanding the perspective
23	Law and Social Change Vago & Nelson, Chapter 7 <i>Assignment Three due this week!</i>	Assignment 3: Constructing the Critique
24	The Charter and Social Change Casebook, 26(a)-(d)	Examination Preparation & Review
25	The Future of Law: Food for Thought Casebook, 27(c)-(e)	Examination Preparation & Review
26	Catch-up Lecture and Exam Review SECOND TERM EXAM TO BE HELD IN FORMAL EXAM PERIOD	Examination Preparation & Review