

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 1000A Introduction to Legal Studies
PREREQUISITES:	None
TERM:	Fall/Winter 2008-09
CLASS:	Day & Time: Lecture: Tuesday 11:35-1:25 Discussion Groups (Tutorials): As Registered for By Student (Discussion Groups meet every week starting the week of September 16, 2008)
	Room: KM-TH (Kailash Mital Theatre Southam Hall) Discussion Group: As registered for by Student
INSTRUCTOR:	Professor Betina Kuzmarov
CONTACT:	Office: D481 Loeb Office Hrs: Tuesday 2-5 and Friday 1-2 or by appointment Telephone: (613) 520-2600 ext. 8810 Email: Please use the WebCT e-mail for this course Discussion Groups (Tutorials): Tutorials for this course are held every week (starting the week of September 16, 2008) by your Teaching Assistants. Please check the time and location of your group. Contact information for your Teaching Assistants will be published on WebCT.

For Students With Disabilities: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations in this course must contact a co-ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me in order to make the necessary arrangements as early in the term as possible, but no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first test requiring accommodation. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations is November 7, 2008 (for fall and fall/winter term courses) and March 6, 2009, for winter term courses.

For Religious Obligations: Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligations should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Please see http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Law is one way of ordering a society. Did you buy breakfast this morning? There is law involved in that. Did you stop at a stop sign on your drive in? Or pay for a bus ticket? Law again. From these issues to more abstract questions such as the kind of society we want to live in law has a role. For this reason this course focuses on how law structures society in the Canadian context. In this course we will ask key questions about law: What is law? How does law work? Who shapes the law? When does law change society? And where does the law end and society begin? Through these questions we will explore several important topics. We will begin with an overview of the concept of law – its definition, theories of law and the role of power in law. We will move on to discuss the structure of Canadian law, with a focus on law making and reasoning. We will then explore the people of law – lawyers and judges as well as issues of access to justice. We will also look at the relationship between law and social change, law and social control and law as a method of resolving disputes in society.

While this course is designed to introduce you to ideas about law in society it will also teach you skills that are necessary for other courses, such as how to critically evaluate legal topics. We will focus on building skills by talking about topics such as legal reasoning, exam and essay skills. The tutorials are as important as the lectures since they teach skills that cannot be taught in a large lecture. By the end of the course you will have not only an understanding of the outlines of the Canadian legal system but will have gained skills to think critically about law and its place in society.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

There are two required texts for this course.

1. S. Vago and A. Nelson, *Law and Society*, 2nd Canadian Edition (Pearson Prentice Hall, Toronto 2008) [referred to as Vago and Nelson].
2. Carleton University, The Carleton Department of Law Casebook Group, *Introduction to Legal Studies*, 3rd Edition (Captus, Concord 2001) [referred to as the Casebook].

These books have been ordered for you at the University Bookstore. You may want to find used copies of the Casebook and Textbook (just make sure the book is the right edition). I have also put the texts on reserve in the library and you can always borrow them there.

EVALUATION:

The evaluation for the course will be broken down as follows:

Online Quiz	0%
Fall Term Assignment	20%
December Exam	30%
Winter Term Assignment	20%
April Exam	30%
Tutorial Attendance Bonus	0.25% (0.25% per tutorial attended to a maximum of 5%)

Online Quiz:

A quiz will be posted on WebCT at the end of September. This quiz will have five multiple choice questions similar in format to the questions on the exam. It is based on the first few lectures. It is not marked and does not count towards your grade. However, it is designed to give you some early feedback on the course.

Assignments:

The Fall Term Assignment will be handed out on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 in class (and posted on WebCT thereafter) and will be due on Tuesday, November 11, 2008. This assignment will require you to read and summarize a court case (which I will assign and is the same for everyone) and also to relate that case to the course materials. It will be 4-6 pages in length (double spaced). The Winter Term Assignment will be handed out in class on Tuesday February 3, 2009 (and will be posted on WebCT after that day) and will be due on Tuesday March 3, 2009. This assignment will be an essay question which must be answered in essay format. This

assignment will be 5-7 pages (double spaced) in length. ALL assignments are to be handed to the DROP BOX in the Law Department Office in Loeb C473 in accordance with DROP BOX policy and will be returned by your Tutorial Assistants in your Tutorial. Assignments cannot be submitted electronically or to any other place other than the DROP BOX. Also please keep a copy of all assignments as a backup until your final grade is confirmed.

Please note that for written assignments marks may be deducted for spelling, grammar and style. Any late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 3% (0.6 marks out of 20) a day (that means Saturday and Sunday too).

All written work must be yours alone, and any ideas you include in your work which are not original to you should be properly referenced, otherwise this is plagiarism. I will explain further in class about what plagiarism is and what academic integrity means at Carleton but as a good first step you should familiarize yourself with the department's policies on proper referencing and citation. For example, you should take a look at the university's academic integrity policy and the library's web page on plagiarism.

To create a consistent and fair policy I grant extensions only in the circumstances approved by the Registrar's office, and only for the period up to the due date. If you think you may require an extension please see me BEFORE the assignment is due and I will be able to consider your request. Also, I cannot accept assignments AFTER the assignment has been returned to students (approved extensions aside). If you have not submitted your assignment by the time it is returned in tutorial you will not receive a grade, and this is important because ALL assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade in this course.

Exams:

The two exams will be multiple choice exams during the assigned exam periods on dates set by the University. I do not set the exam schedule nor can I change it. You should not make travel arrangements before knowing your exam schedule. The exams will each contain 60 questions and will be two hours in length.

Tutorials:

Bonus marks will be awarded for attending tutorials. Each tutorial is worth approximately 0.25%. If you attend ALL tutorials you can earn up to a maximum of 5% bonus marks. Your Teaching Assistant will take attendance for each tutorial.

You should also note that standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that any grades submitted by me may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

COURSE HINTS:

My goal for this course is provide you with the knowledge, skills (and enthusiasm) to allow you to achieve your best as well as giving you the basis to go forward and succeed in Law courses at Carleton. So here are some tips for how to achieve this...

1. Preparation – Attendance and preparation are the best ways to succeed in this class. Attendance means actively note taking and participating in lectures. This class is designed so that the lectures compliment the readings. This means that you should expect to do your readings BEFORE class as this will help you get the most out of the lecture. I also (see WebCT below) post my slides and a scenario the night before each lecture to help you come prepared.
2. Web CT: Please sign up for a WebCT account. I use WebCT regularly. This course outline will be posted on WebCT as will all assignment sheets after they are handed out. WebCT should be a first stop if you have any administrative questions since all the documents for the class (outline and assignments etc.) will be posted there. Also, as mentioned, I post my lecture slides and a scenario on WebCT the night before each class so please feel free to print those off and bring them with you to class. Lastly, the e-mail on WebCT is the e-mail address to use to get in touch with me for this course.

3. Note taking: Note taking in large lectures can take a bit of getting used to. There is a skill to being able to quickly synthesize what I am saying and make it into points you can study from later. Don't worry if this is hard at first, it gets easier. Also, you'll notice right away the slides I post are a good OUTLINE to what I am saying, but not the whole story, so attending class and writing your own notes on what I say is necessary.
4. Questions: If you are unsure please ask. Your TAs and I are here to answer your questions. That's our job. Please don't hesitate to ask if something was unclear or if you have any questions about an assignment. Also, there are many great services available on campus that can also provide you with advice, for example there is the Writing Tutorial Service (Learning Support Services, Room 404 ML), the Student Academic Success Centre (SASC 302 Tory) and the Learning Commons (ML).
5. E-mail etiquette: E-mail is a funny thing. E-mail feels like a conversation but it is really a formal way of communicating to your Instructor or TA. Please read your e-mails over before sending them and take the time to consider if this is what you would like your TA or me to see in writing as e-mail is a formal record of communication.
6. Forms of Address – I am pretty flexible on how you address me and I don't mind Betina. If you prefer not using first names, I am happy to answer to more formal titles in class and in e-mails.
7. Contesting a grade – If you think you have a reason to contest a grade on an assignment please follow this procedure. First, wait a week and think carefully about the reasons why you want to contest the grade – you have to make a case as to why you feel (based on the comments and marking grid) your grade should be changed. Grades can be changed only for valid reasons. Second, contact your TA with your concerns by e-mail (it helps to set them out in writing) and then set up an appointment to discuss your concerns with them. Third, if you have met with your TA and you require further feedback please contact me by e-mail. In this e-mail you should set out your concerns with your grade. At that time we'll make arrangements for you to provide me with the graded paper. After I have had a chance to review your paper we'll set up a meeting to discuss your concerns. I am always happy to change grades for valid reasons, but requesting to have your grade reviewed can mean that YOUR GRADE MAY GO DOWN, so please keep that in mind.

COURSE SYLLABUS:

FALL TERM

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 9 September | WHAT IS LAW?
Welcome
A. Introduction to Law |
| 16 September | WHAT IS LAW? CONTINUED
B. Defining Law: The Types of Law and Legal Systems
<u>Readings:</u> Vago & Nelson Pages 6-10 |
| 23 September | WHAT IS LAW? CONTINUED
C. Theories of Law: Understanding the Place of Law in Society
<u>Readings:</u> Vago & Nelson Pages 31-32; 40-57
Casebook Pages 9-11 |
| 30 September | CLASS CANCELLED/TUTORIALS CANCELLED |
| 7 October | WHAT IS LAW? CONTINUED
D. Law and Power: The Rule of Law and Global Law
<u>Readings:</u> Casebook Pages 11-13; 18-31; 398-400
• Fall Term Assignment is handed out today |

- 3 February** **WHEN DOES LAW CHANGE SOCIETY? CONTINUED**
B. Law as a Tool of Social Control: Formal Controls
Readings: Vago & Nelson Pages 152-153; 155-156
 Casebook Pages 178-185
- Note: The Winter Term Assignment is handed out today.
- 10 February** **WHEN DOES LAW CHANGE SOCIETY? CONTINUED**
B. Law as a Tool of Social Control: Informal Controls
Readings: Vago & Nelson Pages 153-155
 Casebook Pages 187-200
- 17 February** **NO CLASS**
- 24 February** **WHEN DOES LAW CHANGE SOCIETY? CONTINUED**
B. Law as a Tool of Social Control: Crime
Readings: Vago & Nelson Pages 156-160; 167-191
 Casebook Pages 138-147; 153-158; 159-167
- 3 March** **WHEN DOES LAW CHANGE SOCIETY? CONTINUED**
B. Law as a Tool of Social Control: Citizenship, Dissent and Social Order
Readings: Vago & Nelson Pages 191-199
 Casebook Pages 85-108
- Note: The Winter Term Assignment is due today. March 6 is the last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter classes.
- 10 March** **WHERE DOES THE LAW END AND SOCIETY BEGIN? INTRODUCTION**
A. The Limits of Government Power: The Charter and Human Rights
Readings: Casebook Pages 109-134
- 17 March** **WHERE DOES THE LAW END AND SOCIETY BEGIN? CONTINUED**
B. The Law as a Way of Resolving Disputes in Society: Methods
Readings: Vago & Nelson Pages 201-214
 Casebook Pages 203-212
- 24 March** **WHERE DOES THE LAW END AND SOCIETY BEGIN? CONTINUED**
C. The Law as a Way of Resolving Disputes in Society: Types of Disputes and Debates
Readings: Vago & Nelson Pages 214-228; 228-235; 238-242
 Casebook Pages 167-173; 212-227; 230-248; 255-257
- 31 March** **REVIEW CLASS**