

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 1000A - Introduction to Legal Studies
PREREQUISITES:	None
TERM:	Fall/Winter 2009-10
CLASS:	Day & Time: Lecture: Wednesday 3:35-5:25 Tutorials: As Registered for By Student (Tutorials meet every week starting the week of September 23, 2009)
	Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location Tutorials: As registered for by Student
INSTRUCTOR:	Professor Betina Kuzmarov
CONTACT:	Office: D481 Loeb Office Hrs: Wednesday 10:00 AM -12:00 PM or by appointment Telephone: (613) 520-2600 ext. 8810 Email: Please use the WebCT e-mail for this course Tutorials: Tutorials for this course are held every week (starting the week of September 23, 2009) 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 16, 2009 (for fall and fall/winter term courses) and March 12, 2010, 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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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. Law is everywhere and that makes it an important way of ordering society. From concrete questions such as buying breakfast 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? 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 primarily 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 also focus on building skills by talking about topics such as legal reasoning, exam and essay skills. 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.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This course is comprised of both lectures and tutorials. Each week we will have three hours of class. Two hours are lecture, given by me. One hour is tutorial, which is a smaller group of 30 that meets most weeks and is lead by your Teaching Assistant (TA). To be clear: TUTORIALS ARE AS IMPORTANT as lecture because they are designed to teach you skills, particularly for your assignments, that I cannot teach in lecture. Also, your assignments are marked by your TAs. For this reason there are marks given for tutorial attendance.

TEXTS:

There are two required texts for this course.

1. Vago S. and Nelson A., *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].

There is also one recommended text for this course.

1. Fitzgerald, P. and Wright, B. *Looking at Law: Canada's Legal System*. Fifth Edition (Butterworths, Toronto, 2000) [referred to as Fitzgerald and Wright].

The recommended text is designed to provide you with additional background reading on the Canadian legal system. I REALLY suggest getting this book or at least reviewing the Library copy if you are finding the casebook challenging.

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

EVALUATION: (All components must be completed in order to pass this course)

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

Online Quiz	0%
Fall Term Assignment	15%
December Exam	30%
Winter Term Assignment	20%
April Exam	30%
Tutorial Attendance	0.25% (0.25% per tutorial attended to a maximum of 5%)

Online Quiz:

A quiz will be posted on WebCT by October 5, 2009. 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 Wednesday, October 7, 2009 in class (and posted on WebCT thereafter) and will be due on Wednesday, November 11, 2009. 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 Wednesday, February 3, 2010 (and will be posted on WebCT after that day) and will be due on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. 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 TAs 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 5% of the total (0.75 of a mark out of 15 or 1 mark out of 20) a day (that includes a weekend deduction 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. Also, 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. The exams will each contain 60 questions and will be two hours in length. They are not cumulative; the December exam tests material taught from September to December and the April exam tests material taught from January to April. Also, I do not set the exam schedule and I cannot change the dates of the exams. So, please DO NOT make travel arrangements before knowing your exam schedule.

Tutorials:

Attendance at tutorials is very important. Tutorials are used to teach skills necessary for the assignments and other evaluation that I cannot teach in lectures. Also, your Assignments are marked by the TA in charge of your tutorial. As a result, marks will be awarded for attending tutorials. Each tutorial is worth approximately 0.25 of a mark. If you attend ALL the tutorials you can earn up to a maximum of 5 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 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 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, Room 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**

- 16 September LECTURE: WHAT IS LAW?
Welcome
A. Introduction to Law
TUTORIAL: NO TUTORIAL
- 23 September LECTURE: WHAT IS LAW? CONTINUED
B. Defining Law: The Types of Law and Legal Systems
Readings: *Required:* Vago and Nelson Pages 6-10
Recommended: Fitzgerald and Wright Pages 21-24; 53-73; 74-75
TUTORIAL: ACTIVE READING
- 30 September LECTURE: WHAT IS LAW? CONTINUED
C. Theories of Law: Understanding the Place of Law in Society
Readings: *Required:* Vago and Nelson Pages 31-32; 43-57
Casebook Pages 9-11
Recommended: Fitzgerald and Wright Pages 2-16
TUTORIAL: HOW TO READ A LEGAL DECISION
- 7 October LECTURE: WHAT IS LAW? CONTINUED
D. Law and Power: The Rule of Law and Global Law
Readings: *Required:* Casebook Pages 11-13; 18-22; 29-31
TUTORIAL: EXAMPLE OF READING A LEGAL DECISION
▪ Fall Term Assignment is handed out today in lecture
- 14 October LECTURE: HOW DOES LAW WORK? INTRODUCTION
A. The Structure of Law: The Sources of Law; The Courts and Juries
Readings: *Required:* Vago and Nelson Pages 59-71; 72-74; 74-76; 87-88; 88-98
Casebook Pages 340-347
Recommended: Fitzgerald and Wright Pages 24-28; 96-98; 101-103; 112-114
TUTORIAL: CITATION
- 21 October LECTURE: HOW DOES LAW WORK? CONTINUED
A. The Structure of Law: Public Law -The Legislature, Administrative Bodies, The Police
Readings: *Required:* Vago and Nelson Pages 78-87; 98-100; 105-116; 118-119
TUTORIAL: HOW TO READ A LEGAL ARTICLE
- 28 October LECTURE: HOW DOES LAW WORK? CONTINUED
B. Law Making
Readings: *Required:* Vago and Nelson Pages 123-124; 126-133; 135-138; 139-149
TUTORIAL: ASSIGNMENT QUESTION AND ANSWER
- 4 November LECTURE: HOW DOES LAW WORK? CONTINUED
C. Legal Reasoning and Method
Readings: *Required:* Vago and Nelson Pages 133-135; 327-338; 342-346
Casebook Pages 58-59; 62-64
Recommended: Fitzgerald and Wright Pages 28-32
TUTORIAL: HOW TO READ A STATUTE

11 November LECTURE: WHO SHAPES THE LAW? INTRODUCTION
A. The People in Law: The Legal Profession
Readings: Required: Vago and Nelson Pages 284-285; 287-310; 321-325
Recommended: Fitzgerald and Wright Pages 108-110
TUTORIAL: HOW TO STUDY FOR A MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM
 ▪ The Fall Term Assignment is due today. November 16 is the deadline for submitting completed accommodation forms to the PMC for this class.

18 November LECTURE: WHO SHAPES THE LAW? INTRODUCTION
A. The People in Law: Judges
Readings: Required: Casebook Pages 355-359; 362-375; 409-412
Recommended: Fitzgerald and Wright Pages 110-111
TUTORIAL: HOW TO WRITE A MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM

25 November LECTURE: REVIEW CLASS
TUTORIAL: RETURN ASSIGNMENTS/REVIEW CLASS

WINTER TERM:

6 January LECTURE: WHO SHAPES THE LAW? CONTINUED
B. Using the law: Issues of Access to Justice – Law Schools
Readings: Required: Vago and Nelson Pages 316-321
Casebook Pages 307-314
Recommended: Fitzgerald and Wright Pages 131; 132-134
TUTORIAL: NO TUTORIAL

13 January LECTURE: WHO SHAPES THE LAW? CONTINUED
B. Using the law: Issues of Access to Justice – Legal Aid
Readings: Required: Vago and Nelson Pages 312-316
Casebook Pages 259-277; 279-285; 290-300
TUTORIAL: HOW TO PLAN AN ESSAY

20 January LECTURE: WHEN DOES LAW CHANGE SOCIETY? INTRODUCTION
A. Law as a Tool of Social Change: Reciprocity Between Law and Society
Readings: Required: Vago and Nelson Pages 246-257
Casebook Pages 387-395
TUTORIAL: HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY

27 January LECTURE: WHEN DOES LAW CHANGE SOCIETY? CONTINUED
A. Law as a Tool of Social Change: Advantages and Limits
Readings: Required: Vago and Nelson Pages 257-273; 273-278; 278-280
Casebook Pages 46-53
TUTORIAL: WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING?

3 February LECTURE: WHEN DOES LAW CHANGE SOCIETY? CONTINUED
B. Law as a Tool of Social Control: Formal Controls
Readings: Required: Vago and Nelson Pages 152-153; 155-156 TUTORIAL:
HOW TO ANALYZE AN ARGUMENT
 ▪ The Winter Term Assignment is handed out today in lecture.

