

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 1000B – Introduction to Legal Studies
TERM:	Fall/Winter 2007-08
LECTURES:	Day & Time: Thursdays, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Room: MC 2000
TUTORIALS:	Thursdays, after lectures. Tutorial schedules to be distributed during the semester.
INSTRUCTOR:	Professor Vincent Kazmierski
CONTACT:	Office: D486 Loeb Office Hrs: Tuesdays, 10:00 am – Noon (or by appointment) Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 8297 Email: Use the email program on the WEBCT page for this class. If WebCT is not working, try: Vincent_Kazmierski@carleton.ca

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. As well, students will be introduced to important areas of substantive law (such as criminal law, administrative law, contract law etc). 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**

1. S. Vago and A. Nelson, *Law and Society*, 2nd Canadian Edition (Toronto: Prentice Hall, 2007).
2. Carleton University Department of Law Casebook Group, *Introduction to Legal Studies*, 3rd Edition (Concord: Captus Press, 2001) – referred to as the Casebook in the outline of classes.

TUTORIALS

Attendance at tutorials is not mandatory, but is strongly recommended. Tutorials will be used to teach skills necessary for effectively completing the assignments as well as to deal with the substance of the course. Each tutorial group will consist of 30 students and will be led by a designated Teaching Assistant (T.A.). Assignments will be marked by the T.A. in charge of the student's designated tutorial. Office hours and email addresses for T.A.s will be posted on WebCT.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES:

There are four formal evaluation components in this course –two assignments and two multiple choice exams.

Assignment 1 - worth 15% - due Nov. 8, 2006 – submitted to the Law Dept. drop slot at Loeb C473.

This assignment will involve writing a short summary and analysis of a case that will be assigned by the instructor (btw 5-7 double-spaced pages). Students will be expected to apply the theoretical approaches discussed in the first two months of the class in their analysis.

Fall Exam – worth 30% - to be held during the formal fall exam period.

The exam will consist of multiple choice questions only.

Assignment 2 – worth 15% - due February 28 – submitted to the Law Dept. drop slot at Loeb C473.

This assignment will involve writing a short paper (5-7 double spaced pages) on a topic to be assigned by the instructor.

Winter Exam – worth 40%- to be held during the formal fall exam period.

The exam will consist of multiple choice questions only.

Note: There will be no make-up assignments or “grade-booster” assignments under any circumstances.

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 five percent 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. **Students submitting late assignments must submit a hard copy of the assignment to the Department of Law drop-box and must email the instructor notifying him that the assignment has been left in the drop box.**

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 is 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.**

WebCT:

Web-CT will be the primary method of electronic communication with students outside of class. It will be used to post marks, to post announcements, to host email communications and electronic discussion boards. Students should make sure that they sign-on to Web-CT in the first week of classes and should check the Web-CT page for this course on a weekly basis.

A FEW ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS:

- Lectures in this course are designed to complement the texts, not just repeat the same material. As such, it is important to both attend lectures and complete the readings. Students who only complete the readings, but do not attend lectures and tutorials will find it very difficult to do well in this course. Material covered in lectures will be tested in the exams.
- Lectures will be designed to accommodate questions and discussion in class. Feel free to ask questions during the course of lectures. Please remember, however, that questions, comments and discussion in class must remain respectful of the other members of the class.
- This class has close to 350 students in it. As a result, it is very important that students not engage in disruptive behaviour during lectures. Please turn off your cell phones and computer games and put away your newspapers prior to the beginning of lectures.
- Students who keep informed of what's happening in the news will get more out of the content discussed in lectures and readings. The material covered in Laws 1000 will be reflected on a weekly basis in the news.
- 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.
- Another important resource for helping you understand the course is our PASS facilitator. The PASS facilitator is an upper year student who has already taken the course and can help you with strategies to do well in the course. The facilitator's contact information will be posted on Web-CT.
- 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 (229 PA); Student Academic Success Centre (302 Tory); and The Learning Commons (Library 4th Floor).

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS – FALL TERM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Readings</u>
1.	Sep. 6	Introduction to Legal Studies No Readings
2.	Sep. 13	Types of Legal Systems Vago and Nelson, pp. 1-16, 26-31
3.	Sep. 20	Introduction to the Canadian Legal System Note: Tutorials start this week (Sept. 20th).
4.	Sep. 27	Law and Social Life Vago and Nelson, pp. 16-22 Casebook, pp. 1-11
5.	Oct. 4	Law and the State Casebook, pp. 13-33
6.	Oct. 11	Law and Morality Casebook, pp. 35-53
7.	Oct. 18	Law and Theory Vago and Nelson, pp. 31-57 Casebook, pp. 79-84 Case: <i>Christie v. York</i> , [1940] S.C.R. 139-153 (Posted on WebCT)
8.	Oct. 25	Legal Institutions I: Legislatures, Administrative Bodies and the Police Vago and Nelson, pp. 98-121
9.	Nov. 1	Legal Institutions II: The Courts Vago and Nelson, pp. 59-87
10.	Nov. 8	Law-Making I: Legislation, Administrative Decisions, Enforcement and Discretion Vago and Nelson, pp. 123-133, 135-150 Note: Assignment 1 – Case Summary and Analysis – must be handed in today.
11.	Nov. 15	Law-Making II: Judicial Decisions Vago and Nelson, pp. 131-135 Casebook, pp. 55-89
12.	Nov. 22	Legal Actors I: Lawyers and Advocates Vago and Nelson, pp. 283-326 Casebook, pp. 307-316; 324-340
13.	Nov. 29	Legal Actors II: Judges and Juries Casebook, pp. 340-376

FALL EXAM TO BE HELD DURING OFFICIAL FALL EXAM PERIOD

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS – WINTER TERM

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Readings</u>
14.	Jan. 10	Public Law I: Criminal Law Vago and Nelson, pp. 152-196 Casebook, pp. 135-137; 147-173
15.	Jan. 17	Public Law II: Administrative Law Vago and Nelson, pp. 196-200 Casebook, pp. 200-202 Note: Tutorials start this week (Jan. 17th).
16.	Jan. 24	Public Law III: Constitutional Law and Rights Protection Casebook, pp. 85-134
17.	Jan. 31	Private Law I: Exchange Relationships (Contracts) and Family Law Casebook, pp. 175 – 187; 228-230; 277-285
18.	Feb. 7	Private Law II: Duty Relationships (Intentional Torts and Negligence) Vago and Nelson, pp. 87-98
19.	Feb. 14	Private Law III: Informal Regulation of Private Relations Casebook, pp. 187-200.

Reading Week – No Class on Feb. 21

20.	Feb. 28	Resolving Disputes in the Courtroom Vago and Nelson, pp. 214-243 Casebook, pp. 212-227 Note: Assignment 2 – Short Paper – must be handed in today.
21.	Mar. 6	Resolving Disputes Outside the Courtroom Vago and Nelson, pp. 201-214 Casebook, pp. 230-257.
22.	Mar. 13	Access to Justice Issues I Casebook, pp. 259-289.
23.	Mar. 20	Access to Justice Issues II Casebook, pp. 259-289 and 290-297.
24.	Mar. 27	Law and Social Change I Casebook, pp. 379-412
25.	Apr. 3	Law and Social Change II

FINAL EXAM TO BE HELD DURING WINTER EXAM PERIOD

Note: Additional readings may be assigned by the instructor during the course of the year.