

## Course Outline

**COURSE:** LAWS 1000C/V – Introduction to Legal Studies

**TERM:** Fall/Winter 2010/11

**CLASS:** LAWS 1000C: Tuesdays, 8:35-10:25  
Theatre B Southam Hall

**BROADCAST:** LAWS 1000V: Tuesdays, 11:30-1:30

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Jane Dickson-Gilmore

**CONTACT:** OFFICE: D592 Loeb  
OFFICE HRS: Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00  
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"Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must contact a coordinator 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 accommodations. For further information, please see: [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom\\_policy.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html) . If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 15, 2010 for Fall exams and March 12, 2011 for Winter exams**. For Religious and Pregnancy accommodations, please contact Equity Services, x. 5622 or their website: [www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)

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**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* (3<sup>rd</sup> 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*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (Concord: Captus Press, 2010); ISBN 978-1-55322-228-6. (Note: used copies of this book are not currently available).

**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; discussion groups are approximately one-hour in length and either follow or precede the lecture. Discussion groups not 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 attending discussion groups or lectures, but should recognize that success in the course is greatly enhanced if students attend both lectures and discussion groups regularly. 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 four formal evaluation components in this course –two assignments and two multiple choice exams.

**Assignment 1 - worth 10%**      **This assignment will involve writing a concise (3-5 typed, double-spaced pages), critical summary of an article from the casebook, assigned in the first week of classes.**

**Due November 4, 2010 by 3:00 p.m. Assignments may be hand-delivered to the Law Department via the assignment drop chute adjacent to C473 Loeb; assignments which are submitted by mail must be post-marked no later than the due date. Assignments MAY NOT be submitted electronically.**

**Assignment 2 – worth 20%**      **This assignment will require the construction of a case brief from a case assigned by the instructor.**

**Due by February 28, 2011, by 3:00 pm. Assignments may be hand-delivered to the Law Department via the assignment drop chute adjacent to C473 Loeb bldg.; assignments which are submitted by mail must be post-marked no later than the due date. Assignments MAY NOT be submitted electronically**

**First Term Exam – worth 30%**      **to be held during the formal exam period.** The exam will consist of multiple choice questions only.

**Winter Exam – worth 40%**      **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 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 or CUTV and must email the instructor and teaching assistant confirming that the assignment has been submitted.**

**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:**

- 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.
- 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 4<sup>th</sup> Floor); Student Academic Success Centre (302 Tory); and The Learning Commons (Library 4<sup>th</sup> Floor).

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

<b><u>Lecture No.</u></b>	<b><u>Lecture Topic and Readings</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion Group Topic</u></b>
1 14 Sept	<b>Introduction to Legal Studies</b> No Readings	Discussion Groups will not start until second week of classes
2 21 Sept	<b>Law in Social Life</b> Casebook, 1(a)-(c); Vago & Nelson, Chapter 1.	Lecture Note Taking: Why and how to do it well
3 28 Sept	<b>Law and Culture</b> Casebook, 2(a)-(d)	Taking Effective Reading Notes
4 5 Oct	<b>Law, the State and the Constitution</b> Casebook, 3(a)-(c)	Reading and understanding Academic texts: the '3Rs' of effective reading
5 12 Oct	<b>Law, Rights and the Charter</b> Casebook, 10(b)-(d); 11(d)-(e)	Summary & Critique: the assignment – an overview
6 19 Oct	<b>Making the Law: Common Law and Legislation</b> Casebook, 8(a)-(d); Vago & Nelson, Chapter 4.	Summary & Critique: the assignment
7 26 Oct	<b>The Organization and Structure of Canadian Law</b> Vago and Nelson, Chapter 3.	[Assignment Due This Week!] Preparing for a Multiple Choice Exam
8 2 Nov	<b>Law, Morality and Justice</b> Casebook, 5(a)-(e)	Review of Fall Term course materials /Compiling Effective Notes
9 9 Nov	<b>Regulating Behaviour: Law, Crime and Social Control</b> Vago & Nelson, Chapter 5; Casebook, 13(a)-d).	Review of Fall Term course materials/Compiling Effective Notes
10 16 Nov	<b>Regulating Relationships</b> Casebook, 14 (a)-(e)	How to Succeed at Multiple Choice Exams
11 23 Nov	<b>Dispute Resolution</b> Vago & Nelson, Chapter 6; Casebook, 16 (a)-(b)	Mock Exam & Review
12 30 Nov	<b>Adjudication</b> Casebook, 17(a)-(d)	Mock Exam & Review [End of Fall Term]
	<b>MIDYEAR EXAM TO BE HELD IN FORMAL EXAM PERIOD</b>	

**WINTER TERM**

13 4 Jan	<b>Alternatives to Adjudication</b> Casebook, 17(a)-(c)	<b>Tutorials will begin in week 14</b>
14 11 Jan	<b>Settlement and Collaboration in the Legal Process</b> Casebook, 17(d); 19 (a)-(c)	<b>Examination Review</b>
15 18 Jan	<b>Access to Justice: Income Issues</b> Casebook, 20(a)-(b)	<b>How to Find Case Law</b>
16 25 Jan	<b>Lawyers &amp; Lawyering</b> Casebook, 22(b)-(f); Vago & Nelson, Chapter 8	<b>How to Read Case Law</b>
17 1 Feb	<b>Juries</b> Casebook, 23(a)-(c)	<b>Briefing a Case: Instruction and Examples</b>
18 8 Feb	<b>Judges</b> Casebook, 24(a)-(h)	<b>Assignment 2 – compiling the brief</b>
19 15 Feb	<b>Enforcing the Law</b> Casebook, 25 (a)-(c)	<b>Assignment 2 – compiling the brief</b>
20 22 Feb	<b>Reading Week – Classes Suspended</b>	<b>Remember – Assignment 2 due 28 February 2011</b>
21 1 Mar	<b>Law, Liberalism and the Critics</b> Casebook, 6(a)-(f)	<b>Researching Law in Society</b>
22 8 Mar	<b>Connecting Law &amp; Society</b> Casebook, 7(a)-(c)	<b>Understanding the relationship between law and social change</b>
23 15 Mar	<b>Law and Social Change</b> Vago & Nelson, Chapter 7	<b>Review of Assignment 2</b>
24 22 Mar	<b>The Charter and Social Change</b> Casebook, 26(a)-(d)	<b>Examination Preparation &amp; Review</b>
25 29 Mar	<b>The Future of Law: Food for Thought</b> Casebook, 27(c)-(e)	<b>Examination Preparation &amp; Review</b>
26 5 April	<b>Catch-up Lecture and Exam Review</b>  <b>WINTER TERM EXAM TO BE HELD IN FORMAL EXAM PERIOD</b>	<b>Examination Preparation &amp; Review</b>  [Winter Term ends 5 April]