

**Course Outline**

**COURSE:** LAWS 1000 V - Introduction to Legal Studies  
**TERM:** Summer 2008  
**CLASS: Day & Time:** Tuesday 11:30am-1:30pm  
Friday 11:30am-1:30pm  
**Room:** CUTV  
**Tutorial:** Online – WebCT / Wednesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Dawn Moore  
**CONTACT: Office:** D583 LA (Loeb)  
**Office Hrs:** By Appointment  
**Telephone:** 613-520-2600 x. 3823  
**Email:** [moore@ccs.carleton.ca](mailto:moore@ccs.carleton.ca)

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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. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the Paul Menton Centre is June 13, 2008 for first term summer courses and July 25, 2008 for second term summer courses. For further information, please see:

[http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom\\_policy.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accom_policy.html)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Through adopting a socio-legal perspective, this course introduces students to the roles, functions and procedures of legal systems in Canada. We begin by studying the history and development of law in Canada as well as exploring styles and practices of legal reasoning and process. We look at different ways of making and enforcing the law as well as different kinds of law and the roles they play in the formal regulation of society. The second half of the course introduces students to critical perspectives and accounts of the law in a social context. We consider issues of power, language, politics and economics in considering law in relation to equality, gender, social class and race. The course concludes with a critical exploration of professions both in and around the law. Beyond developing a basic understanding of how law works, students will also be introduced to various tools useful in developing broader and deeper critical understandings of the nature of law as it exists in Canadian society. Tantamount here is learning how to ask questions about law from different perspectives. Such questions might include: what is the nature of the relationship between law and society? What is the purpose of law? Why do we regulate some activities and relationships through law and not others? Whose interests does the law represent? Can the law affect social change? Can the law make up for or equalize social inequality? Students will be introduced to a range of theoretical and analytic tools which will aid in the development and study of such questions.

**COURSE TEXTS**

- Vago, Steven & Adie Nelson. (2008). Law and Society (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). Canadian ed. Toronto: Pearson.
- Carleton of Law Case Book Group. (2001). Introduction to Legal Studies. North York: Captus Press

Course books are available at Octopus books. 116 Third Ave in the Glebe [www.octopusbooks.org](http://www.octopusbooks.org)

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

First Term Assignment	20%
Term Exam	30%
Second Term Assignment	20%
Final Exam	30%

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **First Term Assignment - Due: June 6**

The long awaited and highly controversial Supreme Court decision in *Charkaoui v. Canada (Citizenship and Immigration)* has just been handed down. You, a dedicated volunteer for your campus radio station, have just organized a wildly successful and engaging panel debate on the case and the Court's decision. Your three panelists each hail from a different theoretical tradition which coincide exactly with the theoretical lenses we've studied so far in class. Now you have to write a summary of the panel discussion for the station so that they will continue funding your current affairs show. Your summary, which is no more than 6 pages long (4 is fine) should detail each panelist's understanding of the decision (you don't need to go over the decision again) as well as their reactions (critiques) of the other panelists' understandings.

You will need to get a copy of the Supreme Court decision and to have a clear understanding of the different theoretical lenses we've studied in class in order to do this assignment well.

### **Second Term Assignment - Due: July 29**

The symbol most often used to represent justice is that of a woman, blindfolded holding up a set of perfectly balanced scales. The idea conveyed by this image is that justice, through its blindness, guarantees equality to all who come before it. Is justice blind? Does the ideal of blindness guarantee equality before the law? Can the law be used to correct social inequalities and still be blind and equal? Using the materials covered in this course write a formal, 5 to 7 page paper which addresses these questions. Use the Supreme Court's decision in *British Columbia (A.G.) v. Christie* to argue your points.

### **General Comments on Assignments**

You will be provided with ample opportunities to workshop and discuss your assignments as well as obtain further guidance on how to go about completing these assignments successfully in your tutorials. To this end, it is crucial that you commit to attending your tutorials as part of your commitment to this course. Your teaching assistants are all knowledgeable in these areas and are there to assist you in doing these assignments to the best of your abilities. They are your best resource for completing these assignments - use them!

Each assignment carries a late penalty of 2% per day. Except in emergency situations, no requests for extensions will be considered in the week prior to an assignment's due date.

- Do not hand assignments in under the professor's door. Assignments must be submitted to the Law Department
- Handing your assignment in to the wrong department is not an excuse for a late assignment.
- It is your responsibility to make sure that you have received a grade for an assignment. Your TAs will send an email notifying you when the grades are posted. Please check your grades. Claims of lost assignments at the end of term will not be investigated.
- We have very effective means of checking for plagiarism and cheating so don't do it. The likelihood you will be caught is remarkably high. See University Calendar for definitions of these academic offenses. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be referred directly to the Dean.
- Assignments must be typed and double spaced in 12pt font with one inch margins and no spacing between paragraphs.
- ITV students must hand in assignments to the ITV office or to the Law Department via post. Assignments will be marked late if they are postmarked on a date later than the assignment due date.
- Course requirements indicate that you must complete ALL components of the course in order to receive credit. This means that if you don't do an assignment or exam you automatically fail the class. Late assignments are not accepted after assignments are returned to the class (usually one – two weeks after the due date).
- No late assignments will be accepted two weeks after the due date of the assignment.
- Make-up assignments and reweighting of grades are not available except in the most extreme and well documented of circumstances.

**Tips for LAWS 1000**

This is not an easy class but it is also well within your capabilities to do well in the course. Following these tips will help you do so as well as help everyone feel more comfortable in the classroom.

1. I follow an informal lecture style meaning there is a lot of class participation. Most students like the fact that I don't lecture straight for 2 hours but this doesn't work for everyone. If my style doesn't work for you, you may want to check out some of the other great profs teaching LAWS 1000.
2. Please make sure you register for Web CT. This is the main form of contact for this class outside of the lectures. Through Web CT we record your grades, contact you, post important messages about the class as well as course materials and run the message board. You not registering for Web CT is going to make all of our lives more difficult and confusing. There are 400 students in this class - it is one of the biggest on campus - it makes everyone's life easier to be able to manage everyone through the same system. If you don't register for Web CT you'll have a hard time finding out what your grades are and it will be really frustrating come the spring to make your final grade available to you.
3. I do not lecture from the text book. That means if you kick off every class and just read the book three nights before the exam you will have no hope of passing. You need to come to lectures and tutorials to do well in this class.
4. All assignments must be handed in to the Law Department (C473 Loeb). Assignments cannot be handed in electronically nor can they be left under the Professor's door. All graded assignments are returned to the CUTV office (D299 Loeb) for pick-up or will be mailed to distance students
5. Late assignments will not be accepted for grading after the assignments have been returned to students. Any assignment that has not been handed in by this time will receive a mark of 0.
6. You don't have to write down everything I say in lecture. Before lecture every week I will post an outline on Web CT. That same outline will be up on the overhead at the start of every class. This is a good 'road map' for each lecture and you may want to use it as a way to organize your note taking. If you feel like I'm going too fast let me know.
7. If you're having trouble with the material or assignments please come and talk to me or your TA as soon as possible - we will help you and I promise we won't think you're asking dumb questions.
8. Use the message boards on Web CT to connect with your classmates. This is a great way to track down notes of you have to miss lecture, form study groups and ask questions. It is not a great way to offer people money for notes (although offers of dinner, coffee etc. are fine), try to pick up a date for Friday night or engage in inappropriate, hurtful exchanges with other students. I do monitor the message board closely. I will answer any questions posted there directed to me. Also remember that you are not anonymous on the message board. We can all see who you are!
9. Which leads me to email and a bit more on message board etiquette. Please take the time to give all messages you post electronically a second read. My expectation is that all communications in this class be respectful. It's that simple. Be respectful of your classmates, TAs, administrators and me. Swearing, threatening, tattling on your friends, asking for personal information about anyone in the class are all examples of disrespectful behaviour.
10. Keep informed! Law does not happen in text books. It is happening around us all the time. I refer to current events often in class. You will find class a whole lot more interesting and relevant if you listen to the news once a day, pick up a newspaper or at least glance at the headlines.
11. Please keep all of your assignments until you have received your final grade for this course. Mistakes do happen and it is important to be able to double check.
12. I prefer to be called Dawn. I usually call people by their first names as well. If you are a more formal person and want to be addressed formally let me know. If you want to address me formally, or you forget my name, I also try to remember to respond to Professor or Dr. Moore.

13. VERY IMPORTANT - the exam schedule does not come out until about half way through term in each semester. I have NO control over scheduling the exam. **Do not make any plans for work or travel until you have seen the exam schedule.** Beyond extenuating circumstances (illness, death in the family) there is no alternate exam date available.
14. I am sure you are a very nice person but **I don't want to be your friendster /myspace friend**, hear about your Friday night escapades or be invited to your next keg party. As a university student you need to remember that you are in a professional setting. This means that you are well advised to maintain good boundaries between your professional/student life and your personal life. So keep the TAs and me out of your personal spaces – especially on line! Trust me, you don't really want us to know what you did this weekend or be able to read what your friends think of you. When sending out group emails please ensure that you do not include us on the list. If we receive more than one such email from you we will have to start blocking email addresses.

## LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

### SPRING SEMESTER

#### SECTION 1: LAW'S PROCESSES AND PROMISES

**Tuesday, May 13: Introduction - What is law? Why and how can we study law?**  
Vago & Nelson pp. 1 – 9 & 16 - 24

**Friday, May 16: Ways of seeing law**  
Vago & Nelson pp 25 – 44  
R. v. Latimer  
<http://scc.lexum.umontreal.ca/en/2001/2001scc1/2001scc1.html>

**Tuesday, May 20: Ways of Seeing Law Part II**  
Vago & Nelson pp. 44 – 58  
Same Sex Marriage Reference  
<http://scc.lexum.umontreal.ca/en/2004/2004scc79/2004scc79.html>

**Friday, May 23: Sources of Canadian Law**  
Vago & Nelson pp. 9 – 16  
Introduction to Legal Studies pp 9-11; pp 97-115

**Tuesday, May 27: The Structure of Law: Legislatures & Administrative Bodies**  
Vago & Nelson pp 59 – 122

**Friday, May 30: Lawmaking from the Inside & The Charter**  
Vago & Nelson pp. 125 - 135  
Intro to LS pp 109 – 115 & 42 - 46

**Tuesday, June 3: Legal Reasoning & Precedent**  
Intro to LS: pp 55 – 63

**Friday, June 6: Lawmaking from the outside: Public Interests Groups and Voices of Resistance**  
Vago & Nelson pp. 135 - 151, 191 - 195  
Course Reader: Hein 379 - 384  
Video: Who Owns My Life: The Sue Rodriguez Story  
**Assignment Due - No Tutorials**

**Tuesday, June 10: Law's Subjects: Citizenship**  
Intro to LS: pp 95 - 108

**SECTION 2: LAW'S LIMITS, FAILURES AND CRITIQUES**

- Friday, June 13:** *Law and Social Control*  
Vago & Nelson pp. 152 - 190
- Tuesday, June 17:** *Law and Dispute Resolution*  
Vago & Nelson pp. 201 - 245
- Friday June 20:** *Exam Review – Don't Miss This Class!!!*  
Tutorials B Unit 5 - Exam Prep

**Exam Period: June 23 – June 30**

**SUMMER SEMESTER**

- Friday, July 4:** *Law and Social Change*  
Vago & Nelson pp. 246 - 281  
Course Reader: Brickey & Comack pp. 387 - 395 & Henrietta Muir Edwards et al. v. Canada (A.G.) pp. 85- 89.  
Video: Stoned: Hemp Nation on Trial
- Tuesday, July 8:** *The Limits of Law and Social Change & Assignment Prep*  
<http://scc.lexum.umontreal.ca/en/2007/2007scc21/2007scc21.html>
- Friday, July 11:** *Law and Power*  
Intro to LS: Hunt pp 138 - 147  
Video: The Burning Times
- Tuesday, July 15:** *Law & Power Part II*  
Intro to LS: pp 64 – 71, 259 - 277 & 290 - 297
- Friday, July 18:** *The Culture of Law*  
Course Reader: Held et al pp. 28 - 31 & Mandell pp 72 - 75
- Tuesday, July 22:** *Assignment Help Class – Presentation from Writing Support Services*
- Friday, July 25:** *Access to the Law*  
Course Reader: Brodsky & Day pp 279 - 285 & Gathercole pp 290 - 297  
Guest Lecture: Sunny Marriner
- Tuesday, July 29:** *Fighting the Law*  
Course Reader: Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr. Prosecution pp 151 - 153 & The Rule of Law - Its nature and applications pp 11 - 13.  
**Assignments Due - no tutorials**
- Friday, August 1:** *Law's Politics*  
Course Reader: Glasbeek & Mandel pp 109 - 115 & Laskin 355

**SECTION 3: PROFESSIONS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE LAW.**

- Tuesday, August 5:** *Lawyers*  
Vago & Nelson pp 295 - 318  
Course Reader: Essau pp 324 - 332
- Friday, August 8:** *Law is not just for lawyers*  
Vago & Nelson pp 318 - 341  
Course Reader: Kennedy pp 307 - 311
- Tuesday, August 12:** *Review*  
Vago & Nelson pp. 350 - 372