

**Carleton University
Department of Law and Legal Studies**

**LAWS 2908A– Approaches in Legal Studies I
Winter 2014**

LECTURES:	Tues 10:05-11:25 SA 520	Note: This course uses a blended learning model that involves both live lectures (held in class) and online learning modules that you will review outside of class. <i>Please review the Course Schedule posted on CULearn to see which classes will include live lectures.</i>
TUTORIALS:	Thurs 10:05-11:25 SA 520	Mandatory Attendance. All tutorials require in-person attendance at the tutorial. Attendance will be recorded.
INSTRUCTOR:		Dr. Vincent Kazmierski
CONTACT:	Office:	D486 Loeb
	Office Hrs:	To be announced – see CULearn
	Email:	Vincent.Kazmierski@carleton.ca
CULEARN:	Essential	Students must be able to access and use CULearn for this course. Email to Instructor, lecture slides, assignments and many video resources are available <u>only</u> through this modality. Contact CCS for assistance if required at www.carleton.ca/ccs

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Law Program at the Department of Law at Carleton University is firmly grounded in a “legal studies” approach which situates law in its social, economic, political and historical contexts. As such, courses focus not just on ‘what the law is’ in a particular area but also on a range of academic and practical considerations: How does the law ‘as it is’ reflect particular (normative) visions of society and distributions of power within it? How and why does law change? How is the law ‘on the books’ operationalized (e.g., by the police or business-people) and experienced by ordinary people in everyday life? How do the narratives of law (e.g., judicial decisions) communicate cultural meanings in our society? How do law and legal processes interact with other institutions in our society? Who creates law – and is all ‘law’ (in the sense of regulation of conduct) formally prescribed law?

Engaging with questions such as these requires that students are able to deploy a range of effective research skills and strategies. The Department offers two research courses to assist students to master their law discipline. This course, Laws 2908, introduces students to legal materials in legal studies research. By this we mean judicial decisions (cases), legislative instruments (statutes and regulations), government documents (including Parliamentary materials and policy), and secondary sources published in academic journals. It also addresses ‘legal method’ in comprehending and working with these materials. This course is compulsory for all students majoring in a Law or Law Honours programs. A second course, Laws 3908, offered at the 3000 level, introduces students to a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, including the use of social science research sources and methods in legal studies and more advanced consideration of theory in legal research.

COURSE FORMAT

LECTURES

This course engages a blended learning model. It will include both live lectures (held in class) and online lecture modules that you will review outside of class. The lectures in this course are designed to introduce students to the important role of research and the approaches to research that may be engaged in the field of legal studies. Lectures will also provide foundations for effective analysis of different types of primary and secondary sources in law.

TUTORIALS

Attendance at tutorials is **MANDATORY**. Tutorials are used to provide hands-on introduction to research skills and training with electronic resources. Some tutorials will be ‘labs’ and other will be workshops addressing writing skills and assignments. *All tutorials will be held in our course classroom and will be led by Professor Kazmierski.*

COURSE MATERIALS:

A. REQUIRED TEXTS:

Text:

1. McGill Law Journal, *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 7th ed (Scarborough, Ontario: Carswell, 2010) [The *McGill Guide*]. This text explains the basic rules of legal citation. It is an essential reference text for anyone conducting research concerning legal issues. You will use it as a resource in other courses as you progress in the law program. Available in the University Bookstore.

Articles and Cases :

Other required readings will include articles and cases. These will be available through a link on the CULearn home page and through the library ARES system. You may need to provide your Patron ID to access readings linked through the University Library. These readings are indicated on the Schedule of Lectures and Tutorials (posted on CULearn). You may also search by course name at <http://library.carleton.ca> for readings. Students will be expected to retrieve copies of these readings and read them in preparation for the appropriate lectures and tutorials. For some weeks direct web URLs are provided to required readings.

B. OTHER WEB-BASED RESOURCES

The lectures and tutorials in this class are supported by a variety of materials available through CuLearn.

These supporting materials include video-recorded demonstrations and guides, captivate videos, youtube videos and power-point slides. Students are responsible for reviewing these supporting materials before the lectures or tutorials they are meant to support.

C. RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

1. Wayne C Booth et al, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd ed (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2008). This is a general introductory guide to research and writing in the social sciences. This book is available as an e-book accessible through the Carleton Library website using your Patron ID. You do NOT need to buy this book in hard copy, however there are copies available for sale in the bookstore.
2. Margaret Kerr et al, *Legal Research: Step by Step*, 3rd ed (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2010). This book provides a basic introduction to legal research that is often used in law schools. You may be able to buy this second hand.
3. **Online:** *Best Guide to Canadian Legal Research:* www.legalresearch.org. This is an excellent resource addressing processes and resources for legal research with many relevant hyperlinks. Note however that citation information given has not yet been updated to the McGill Guide 7th Edition which is used in this course.

EVALUATION

This course is **DEMANDING AND INTENSIVE**. It will require considerable ongoing attention every week. Generally there is something **DUE EVERY WEEK**. These components are explained in detail below. Please review carefully and note all requirements and due dates.

We know that this is a lot of work for you (and for us) and that the course may seem much heavier than your other courses. However, this course is foundational in your Law Program. It is designed to provide you with the opportunity to develop research skills and understanding that will serve you well in your other law courses. The course is also designed to encourage you to stay engaged with the material being covered each week. Notably, the evaluation of the course is weighted to reward those students who stay engaged, submit the weekly exercises on time, attend and participate in tutorial.

Evaluation Component	Value	Due Dates
ASSIGNMENTS There are TWO Assignments in the course. Each is submitted through the CULearn Assignment Tab. Full instructions will be provided with the Assignment Sheets which will be posted on the Assignment Tab on CULearn.		
Assignment 1 Case Brief and Analysis This assignment will require students to summarize and analyze a judicial decision in a case to be assigned by the instructors.	30%	February 24, 2014
Assignment 2 Summary and Analysis of Secondary Sources This assignment is designed to provide students with the opportunity to analyze several journal articles assigned by the instructors.	40%	April 7, 2014
TUTORIAL ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION Tutorial attendance is mandatory . There are 10 tutorials scheduled during the first 10 weeks of class. Students must attend at least 8 of these tutorials. Tutorials take two different formats (labs and workshops): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Labs</u>: the 6 labs cover nuts and bolts of legal research and databases. Students will complete worksheets in these labs.• <u>Workshops</u>: the 4 workshops cover specialized themes such as analyzing legal material and writing. Students will submit Exercises ahead of time for Workshops on Analyzing Cases and	10%	Ongoing

Evaluation Component	Value	Due Dates
Secondary Sources. (See Tutorial Workshops and Prep Exercises below)		
<p>TUTORIAL WORKSHOP PREP EXERCISES</p> <p>Tutorial workshop prep exercises must be completed prior to the Workshop on Analyzing Cases and Using them in Research and the Workshop on Analyzing Secondary Sources and Using Them in Research. These completed exercises must be submitted in person at the beginning of the corresponding workshops. They are worth 3 marks each.</p>	6%	<p><i>Cases Analysis Workshop Prep Exercise</i> – due in week 5 tutorial</p> <p><i>Article Analysis Workshop Prep Exercise</i> – due in week 9 tutorial</p>
<p>LECTURE QUIZZES</p> <p>There are 11 Lecture Quizzes that are based on the content discussed in the lectures and a designated reading for each lecture. These exercises replace the previous examination requirement in this course. They are posted on CUOL. Each Quiz gets activated the day the lecture for that week is scheduled in the course schedule below.</p> <p>All Quizzes stay open for only one week. Students will have one hour to complete each Quiz.</p> <p><u>Important Note:</u></p> <p>Each Quiz is worth 2 marks out of your final grade. Only your marks from your best 7 Quizzes will be counted towards your final grade. This means that students may choose to only complete 7 of the Quizzes if they are satisfied with their marks from these 7 Quizzes.</p>	14%	<p>Week 1 Quiz – open from Jan 7 until Jan 13.</p> <p>Week 2 Quiz – open from Jan 14 until Jan 20.</p> <p>Week 3 Quiz – open from Jan 21 until Jan 27.</p> <p>Week 4 Quiz – open from Jan 28 until Feb 3.</p> <p>Week 5 Quiz – open from Feb 4 until Feb 10.</p> <p>Week 6 Quiz – open from Feb 11 until Feb 17.</p> <p>Week 7 Quiz – open from Feb 25 until March 3.</p> <p>Week 8 Quiz – open from March 4 until March 10.</p> <p>Week 9 Quiz – open from March 11 until March 17.</p> <p>Week 10 Quiz – open from March 18 until March 24.</p> <p>Week 11 Quiz – open from March 25 until March 31.</p>
Important Notes on Evaluation:		
<p>You must complete all components of Evaluation to receive a passing mark in the course.</p> <p>You must provide meticulously correct citations compliant with the <i>Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation</i>, 7th edition (the McGill Guide) in Assignments. Marks will be deducted in each assignment if citation is not fully correct. Marks will also be allocated for effective writing.</p> <p>Submission: Due dates assignments are always on a Monday. Due time for all work is NOON.</p>		

- This is set during University working hours so you can contact CCS if you have a problem with submission.
- There is a 'grace period' or leeway of a few minutes in case you have technical issues (this means 30 minutes maximum and it is at our discretion).
- You will be subject to **heavy late penalties** if you do not submit on time (see later information on this).

Feedback: You will receive a marking feedback and evaluation sheet with your marks and some comments when your marks are posted. You should wait 48 hours before emailing your TA if you have questions on your marks. Please make your queries specific and detailed so that the TA can review your points and get back to you. If necessary, your TA will set up an appointment to meet with you.

Timelines:

- It will take about 14 days to mark and return Assignment 1 to you through the Assignments Tab.
- Assignment 2 will be marked within the timeframe for finalizing the Final Grade Report. You will receive your mark around the same time as the FGR is submitted to the Dean's Office.
- Marks for other submissions will be input by your TA using Grade Book. These are likely to be posted 'en bloc' near the end of the semester. You will know if you have obtained the associated marks in any case, by submitting on time.

Grade Book: Initially, you will obtain your mark through the Assignments Tab on CULearn. After a short time, we will also release the marks onto grade book. Please check from time to time so we can catch any errors or omissions early and make corrections.

Keep a copy: Keep a copy of all assignments and other submissions until your final grade is confirmed.

Individual work only! See later discussion of Academic Integrity.

LATE PENALTIES

We have every commitment to your success in the course and we also know that 'life' (and other coursework) can intervene. We also realise that it is common for students (and even professors) to work towards the 'last minute deadline.' As the seconds tick towards the deadline however, there seems to be a correlated 'disaster clock' – a computer crash, lost file etc. We urge you to set earlier 'self-deadlines' and to allow time for revision for major Assignments.

This is a very large class. Late assignments create a significant administrative burden across the (large) team of people who work with us on the course. There is a significantly higher risk of assignments going astray. There are many deliverables. Accordingly, we expect and require students to get their assignments in ON TIME. We are remorseless about lateness and impose extremely heavy penalties without exception as follows:

ASSIGNMENTS

Late Assignments will be penalized as follows:

- Deduction of 5% marks if the assignment is handed in on the due date after the deadline of NOON but before midnight.
- A further 5% if the assignment is handed-in anytime the 'next day' - from 12:01am to 11:59 pm.
- A further 10% is deducted at beginning of each following day (at 12:01am) including weekend days.
 - In other words, if a paper is due at NOON on Monday and you submit it anytime on Wednesday, the penalty is -20% - **So don't be late!!!**
- If an Assignment is handed in more than seven days late, it will be accepted towards course completion but will receive zero marks.

EXTENSIONS FOR THE ASSIGNMENTS

Students can request an extension on Assignments for serious illness or family and personal emergencies. They will be required to provide official supporting documentation. Students requesting an extension MUST contact the course Instructor prior to the assignment deadline. Your TA cannot grant extensions.

Extensions will not be granted for computer problems of any kind. We URGE you to back up your work as you go along: email a draft to yourself whenever you finish a segment of work on it or copy it to a USB thumb-drive or an external hard drive.

A cold or the flu is not a sufficient reason for an extension.

Competing workloads in other courses is not a sufficient reason for an extension.

Work schedule or family schedule conflicts are not sufficient reasons for an extension.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: PLAGIARISM, UNAUTHORIZED RESUBMISSION OF WORK

The University's policy concerning academic integrity, including prohibitions against plagiarism and the unauthorized resubmission of work is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar (see e.g. Regulation 14 – Academic Integrity). In particular, students should note that a "student shall not submit substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs. Minor modifications and amendments such as 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 "presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own."

Do not share copies of your papers or files with one another: if someone copies your work you may be equally subject to penalty. Using someone else's responses for the Workshop Prep Exercises constitutes plagiarism and will be treated accordingly. Do not work together to prepare your answers. Electronic submission makes it relatively easier for us to compare your work with other submissions in this course (and with earlier course offerings).

We rigorously pursue suspicion of plagiarism and, without exception, refer to the Office of the Dean. We reserve the right to: compare all files with other submissions in this course and other offerings of the course; to use various tools including software to detect possible plagiarism and copying; and if 'off topic' work is submitted, to consult with other instructors to confirm that you are not 're-using and re-cycling' assignments, which is strictly prohibited.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT:

The Department of Law's Policy Statement is available at <http://www2.carleton.ca/law/undergraduate-programs/course-outlines/>. The Department's policy statement is included as part of this course outline. The policy 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.**