

## Course Outline

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| <b>COURSE:</b>                    | <b>LAWS 4801A Risk and the Legal Process</b>  |
| <b>TERM:</b>                      | <b>Fall 2012</b>  |
| <b>PREREQUISITES:</b>             | <b>Honour's Standing</b>  |
| <b>CLASS:</b>                     | <b>Day &amp; Time: Tuesday 8:35-11:35</b><br><b>Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location</b>                      |
| <b>INSTRUCTOR:<br/>(CONTRACT)</b> | <b>T. Ashtakala</b>   |
| <b>CONTACT:</b>                   | <b>Office: Loeb B-442</b><br><b>Office Hrs: By appointment</b><br><b>Telephone: 613-520-3690</b><br><b>Email: Tara_Ashakala@carleton.ca</b> |

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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](mailto: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/>

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Risk management is **not just for business majors** anymore; it is an increasingly important aspect of both public and private activities. Nowadays, the ability to anticipate the consequences in law of a proposed or uncontrollable event is essential for legal counsel, whether your client is an individual involved in an everyday consumer transaction or a construction company carrying out a megaproject or a government institution concerned with protecting the safety of the public. Policies, contracts and even lifestyles need the rigorous scrutiny of the legal professional in order to avoid lawsuits or other adverse legal consequences. This course is intended to introduce students of law and legal studies to the situations, actors, methodology and societal impact of risk management.

**You will be surprised and intrigued by the diversity of issues that you will be exposed to in this course and you will use the skills you learn herein in your future law-related career.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- to identify situations of risk with legal implications
- to determine which actors (individuals, governments, courts) are affected by the risk issue
- to evaluate the strategies employed by those actors for preventing or mitigating (ie managing) the risk
- to explore the impact of the risk and its management on law and society as a whole

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Required Readings will be posted on WebCT. Some additional articles, as well as case study exercises, will be distributed in class.

**EVALUATION**

**All three (3) components must be completed in order to get a passing grade**

**(1) Term Essay- 40% of final grade**

- essay due in class on 27 Nov 2012
- Length: 12-15 pages double-spaced, proper legal citation and bibliography required
- Format: the paper must embody the Course Objectives above
- The task for the Term Essay is to perform a risk analysis on a topic of interest to the student; the goal of the exercise is to demonstrate that the four point methodology above can be used to evaluate any situation.

**(2) Open book final examination - 50% of final grade**

- The objective of the exam is to put you in the position of a decision-maker in a situation of imminent risk; you must use all the tools at your disposal (readings, lectures and case studies done in class) to assess the risks and to choose the most legally sound course of action in four different scenarios, in 3 hours.

**(3) Presentation and class participation - 10% of final grade**

Each student will be required to give a 10-15 minute presentation on the subject of his/her Term Essay research paper, as well as participate in the discussions following each of the presentations of the other members of the class. The presentation will be in the form of a debate on the risks and counterarguments (pros and cons) of the issue. This will require the student to partner up with a colleague in the class. One student will prepare the risk analysis of his or her topic, while the partner will come up with the counter arguments and the first student will then have to reply to the counterarguments for the remainder of the presentation. Each debate presented will constitute the mark for the one student whose chosen topic is being debated; in other words, every student in the class has to prepare and present a debate on their selected issue. A sign-up sheet for presentation dates will be circulated at the first class.

- **You must sign up for a presentation date by 25 September**

**SCHEDULE****11 Sep INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW****18 Sep THE NATURE OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTY****A. Situations of Risk**

1. Sharratt, "Risk Renewal" Canadian Insurance 10 (January 2002)
2. Baer, "Thinking Outside The Courtroom," 2 Just. Can. 1 (2003)
3. Sudell, "To Tell Or Not To Tell: The Scope Of Physician-Patient Confidentiality When Relatives Are At Risk Of Genetic Disease," 18 J.Cont.Health L And Policy 273 (2001)
4. Krishna, "Crime Pays More If You've Got Class," Globe & Mail, April 29, B9 (2002)
5. "World's first humanitarian insurance policy issued", World Food Programme, 06/3/6
6. 'Laser scam' gamblers to keep £1m , BBC News online, 5 December 2004

**B. Nature of Risk**

1. Short, "Essence of Risk"

**25 Sep ONGOING DEBATES IN RISK MANAGEMENT****A. Risky behaviours: do we penalize risk-taking or absorb it collectively?**

1. "Fronting for Business", multinationalmonitor.org
2. Wildavsky, "No Risk Is the Highest Risk of All" in Glickman & Gough eds., Readings In Risk (1990) at 120
3. No-Fault Automobile Insurance. Christopher J. Bruce & Angela Tu Weissenberger, ECONOMICA LTD. The Expert Witness Newsletter, Autumn 2001 Vol. 6, No. 3
4. Culpability and Compensation in Canadian Health Care: Much Ado About No-Fault? Chris Hubbard, CROSSROADS: WHERE MEDICINE AND THE HUMANITIES MEET, 1999.

**B. Regulation v Innovation: managing risk through regulation (or not)**

1. Van Waarden, "Institutions and Innovation - the legal environment of innovating firms", accessed at [www.findarticles.com](http://www.findarticles.com) , Organization Studies, Sept-Oct. 2001
2. Macdonald, "Coerciveness and the selection of environmental Policy instruments," 44 Can. Pub. Admin., 161
3. Macrory, "Regulating In a Risky Environment," 54 Current Legal Problems 619 (2001)
4. Hawkins, "FATCATS" And Prosecution in a Regulatory Agency, Ch.15 in Short op cit.
5. McDonald, "Judicial Review Of NHTSA Ordered Recalls," 47 Wayne Law Rev. 1301 [2001]

**2 Oct TOOLS FOR THE PREVENTION AND/OR MITIGATION OF RISK****A. Concept of Insurance**

1. Tanega, "Implications Of Environmental Liability On The Insurance Industry," 8 Jour. Environmental Law
2. Flyvbjerg et al, "Megaprojects and Risk" Ch. 7 (2003)

**B. Tort Action**

*Comite d'environnement de la Baie Inc. v. Societe d'electrolyse et de chimie Alcan* [1990] RJQ 655, 6 CELR (NS) 150(Que. CA), leave to appeal refused [1990] 2 SCR xi.

**C. Precautionary Principle**

1. Morris, "Defining the Precautionary Principle", Ch. 1 (2000)

**D. Planning for Risk in Contracts**

1. Triantis, "Contractual Allocations of Unknown Risks: A Critique of the Doctrine of Commercial Impracticability" 42 Univ. Tor. L.J. 450 (1992)

**9 Oct RISK IN THE LEGAL PROCESS**A. Practical risk issues encountered in the trial process

1. Valverde, Levi & Moore, "Legal Knowledges of Risks," Draft, Report To the Law Commission of Canada, (May 2003)
2. Reddy, "Claims To Expert Knowledge And The Subversion Of Democracy: The Triumph Of Risk Over Uncertainty", 25 *Economy And Society* 222 (1996)
3. Maich, "Ethics of Plea Bargains Questioned", *Maclean's*, 9 July 2007
4. Evidence, Persuasion and the Jury
5. Lederer, "The Road to the Virtual Courtroom?" read pp. 5-34 only

**DEALING WITH RISK IN VARIOUS TYPES OF LAW****16 Oct DISASTERS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

1. Thornton, "Hurricane Katrina - The Legal Saga Begins", [www.tortlaw.net](http://www.tortlaw.net)
2. Bannon and Fisher, "Legal Lessons in Disaster Relief from the Tsunami, the Pakistan Earthquake and Hurricane Katrina", *American Society for International Law*, vol. 10, Issue 6, 15 March 2006.
3. Text of Bill C-78, An Act to provide for emergency management and to amend and repeal certain acts, 1st Session, 38th Parliament, 53-54 Elizabeth II, 2004-2005.
4. United Nations Development Program, "Is Sustainable Human Development Achievable under Natural Disaster Risk?", in *Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development*, ch.1, s.6 (2004).

**23 Oct RISK AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

1. World Trade Organization, "EC Measures Concerning Meat and Meat Products (Hormones)", Report of the Appellate Body, WT/DS26/AB/R, WT/DS48/AB/R 16 January 1998.
2. Parexel drug trial articles, *The Times Online*
3. "Safety of Plasma Derivatives: The Role of Regulation", extract from Final report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada
4. 'Legal Access and Preparedness', extract from The SARS Commission, Second Interim Report: SARS and Public Health Legislation

**30 Oct RISK ISSUES IN CRIMINAL LAW**

1. "Offender Risk Assessment", John Howard Society of Alberta (2000), accessed at <http://www.johnhoward.ab.ca/pub/C21.htm>
2. MacAllister, "Use of Risk Assessments by Canadian Judges in the Determination of Dangerous and Long-term Offender Status from 1997-2002," Draft May 12, 2003
3. Shute, "The place of Public Opinion in Sentencing Law," [1998] *Crim. L. Rev.* 405
4. Roberts, "Public Opinion and Mandatory Sentencing", University of Ottawa, 2003 (accessed at <http://people.stthomasu.ca/~oregan/roberts-sent.pdf>).

**6 Nov VOLUNTARY ASSUMPTION OF RISK : THE CASE OF SPORT**

- Husa & Thiele, "In the Name of the Game: Hockey Violence and the Criminal Justice System." 45 *Crim. L. Q.* 509 [2002]
- Citron, Jeffrey A. & Ableman, Mark, "Civil liability in the arena of professional sports". 36 *U.B.C. L. Rev.* 193-230 (June 2003)
- R. v. Cey*, 75 *Sask. R.* 53; 48 *C.C.C.* (3d) 480 (C.A. 1989)
- R. v. Leclerc*, 4 *O.R.* 788; 67 *C.C.C.* (3d) 563 (C.A. 1991)
- Dunn v University of Ottawa* (1995), Unreported Decision of the Ont. Ct. of Justice (Gen. Div.), Docket No. OJ2865.

**13 Nov VOLUNTARY ASSUMPTION OF RISK: THE CASE OF TORT  
-Challenges to using the defence of *volenti* in civil lawsuits:**

- **Intoxication**

*Dube v. Labar*, 27 D.L.R. (4th) 653; 36 C.C.L.T. 105 (Sup. Ct. Can. 1986)

*Crocker v. Sundance Northwestern Resorts Ltd.*, 51 D.L.R. (4th) 321; 44 C.C.L.T. 225 (Sup. Ct. Can.(1988)

*Childs v. Desormeaux*, 2006 SCC 18

- **Duties owed to the Unborn**

*Dobson (Litigation Guardian of) v. Dobson*, [1999] 2 S.C.R. 753

- **Rescuers and Good Samaritans**

*Horsley v. MacLaren*, [1972] S.C.R. 441

*Coopersmith v. Air Canada*, 2009 QCCQ 5521

**20 Nov RISK AND THE MEDIA**

**27 Nov REVIEW OF COURSE**