

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Department of Law

LAWS 5000F - Wednesday 11.35 - 2.25

FALL 2010

THEORIES OF LAW AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday 10.15 - 11.30 am
Wednesday 10.15 - 11.30am
and at other times by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course will focus on the connection between law and social change. It will approach this broad issue by considering the implications of a selected range of theories. They will be examined for what they contribute to an understanding of the social, economic and political place of law in modern society.

COURSE ORGANIZATION:

This is a 3 hour class. Each class will start with a lecture-style presentation followed by discussion. During the first half of the course the second part of each session will be devoted to discussion of assigned texts. In the second half of the course each participant will give a seminar presentation on the topic of their Term Paper.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Evaluation will be based primarily on one Term Paper; 70% will be allocated to the final paper submitted; 15% will be allocated for written course assignments preparatory for the term paper and 15% for a course portfolio.

Portfolio:

The portfolio is intended to be a working document. It should be handed in with the term paper. It should contain the following:

- (a) Concepts: a list of concepts encountered with brief definition and comments; most valuable will be subsequent notes indicating how your understanding of the concepts has changed or developed;
- (b) Notes: A brief note in the form of an aide memoire of all material read for this course; the purpose of this exercise is to encourage the habit of keeping some record of what you read;
- (c) Term paper: a record of the stages required for working-up and planning your term paper; details will be provided in class.

Term paper:

The paper should normally be between 6,000 - 10,000 words. You will be given a number of assignments to assist in planning your paper. Papers should be word-processed and printed, with title page, paginated and with footnotes at the bottom of the page, and list of works cited at the end. Papers should be handed to me personally or deposited for me in the Law Department.. Papers should be submitted by **Monday 13th December 2010**. (You are advised to keep a copy of your paper). Please note that I reserve the right to conduct an oral examination on papers submitted if there is a suspicion of plagiarism (see 'Graduate Calendar' for details on plagiarism).

Preparatory steps for term paper

The steps are intended to help move forward plans for your term paper ahead. At the core of this approach is the view that the most important step is identifying and defining as sharply as possible a **question**.

Keep one computer file for this exercise. At each stage retain or revise each of the previous stages and hand in as hard copy. Please note that you can change your mind at any stage; simply repeat each of the steps described below.

The first step is the selection of a **topic**. You will be asked to select 2 or 3 possible topics understood as fields of inquiry but without necessarily indicating any particular orientation; for example 'social constructionism' or 'the forms of power' would count as topics. Your topic should be related directly to one of the themes addressed in the course readings.

Your question: Select a question through which to address your selected topic. Make it one question rather than a series of questions. Make sure that it does end with a question-mark and that it is not a statement or a value judgment.

Revised version of question: On the basis of discussion of the questions selected you can have a chance to revise your question; for example to make it narrower (or broader if necessary), to make the question more clearly defined. The issue is not whether you know what you are on about, but whether your reader can understand your question.

Title of paper: Titles are important. Try to find a paper that both gives an adequate identification of your project and one that will interest the reader, make them want to read it!

Structure of paper: identify the main stages that you will need in order to develop your topic and address its questions.

Bibliography: Provide a bibliography distinguishing between items that you have already read and those that you plan to read.

Alan Hunt
September 2010