

Carleton University

Department of Law and Legal Studies

Course Outline

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| COURSE: | LAWS 1000D — Introduction to Legal Studies |
| TERM: | Fall 2016 / Winter 2017 |
| LECTURE: | Day & Time: Friday, 8:30 to 10:30 am Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location |
| INSTRUCTOR: | Professor Umut Özsu |
| CONTACT: | Office: Loeb Building D498 Office Hours: Thursday, 1:30 to 5:00 pm / Friday, 12:30 to 1:30 pm Telephone: 613-520-2600 ext. 3682 Email: Umut.Ozsu@carleton.ca |

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

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://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://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://carleton.ca/pmc/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://carleton.ca/equity/>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence.

More information on the University's **Academic Integrity Policy** can be found at: <http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

Department Policy

The Department of Law and Legal Studies operates in association with certain policies and procedures. Please review these documents to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations.

<http://carleton.ca/law/current-students/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has two principal aims. First, it provides a basic introduction to the foundations of law, legal reasoning, and the Canadian legal system. We will examine the sources of law in Canada, the structure and function of legal institutions, and the various actors involved in the process of making, applying, interpreting, and transforming legal rules and instruments. We will also consider important areas of substantive law, such as contract law, criminal law, and constitutional law. Second, the course introduces a number of tools for analyzing and thinking critically about law, legal reasoning, and the Canadian legal system. We will consider competing theoretical perspectives on the role of law in constituting and reconfiguring relations between individuals and groups, as well as relations between state institutions and civil society. A key concern will be law's power to both further and contain social, political, and economic change.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are two required texts for this course. Both are available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore. Used copies may also be obtained in local bookstores.

These two texts are as follows:

1. Stephen Tasson, Jane Dickson, Vincent Kazmierski, Betina Kuzmarov, and Sebastien Malette, eds., *Introduction to Legal Studies*, fifth edition (Concord, ON: Captus Press, 2015). (We will refer to this text as "*Introduction to Legal Studies*".)
2. Steven Vago and Adie Nelson, *Law and Society*, fourth Canadian edition (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2016). (We will refer to this text as "*Law and Society*".)

It is crucially important that you use the correct edition of both texts. In the case of *Introduction to Legal*

Studies, the fifth and most recent edition is significantly different from the fourth edition. In the case of *Law and Society*, it may be possible for you to use an earlier edition, but this will require significant effort to ensure that you are reading the correct materials. I therefore strongly encourage you to obtain copies of the most recent editions.

BASIC FORMAT

This course is taught through a combination of lectures and discussion groups. Lectures last two hours, taking place from 8:30 to 10:30 am every Friday. Discussion group meetings last one hour, taking place later in the morning each Friday. Discussion groups will examine course materials further, and will teach you skills that are necessary for completing the written assignments and preparing for the final examination. Each discussion group will be led by a Teaching Assistant ("TA"), who will grade assignments and assign marks for attendance and participation. Discussion groups will begin in the second week of classes during both the fall and winter semesters. Attendance is strictly mandatory.

EVALUATION

There are six formal evaluation components in this course: four written assignments, one multiple-choice final examination, and your grade for attendance and participation in discussion group meetings. The final examination will be held during the regular examination period in April 2017. All written assignments must be completed and submitted electronically to the relevant TA via cuLearn by 4:30 pm on the relevant due date. Assignments submitted in any other fashion will not be accepted.

The formal evaluation components of this course are structured as follows:

1. Assignment 1: 10%

This assignment will consist of a critical summary (approximately 750 words, roughly three pages) of a scholarly article. It will be due on Wednesday, 5 October 2016, by 4:30 pm. The assignment must be submitted electronically via cuLearn in advance of this deadline.

2. Assignment 2: 15%

This assignment will require that you prepare a case brief (no more than 500 words, roughly two pages) of a specified case. It will be due on Wednesday, 9 November 2016, by 4:30 pm. The assignment must be submitted electronically via cuLearn in advance of this deadline.

3. Assignment 3: 15%

This assignment will require that you prepare a second case brief (no more than 500 words, roughly two pages) of a specified case. It will be due on Wednesday, 8 February 2017, by 4:30 pm. The assignment must be submitted electronically via cuLearn in advance of this deadline.

4. Assignment 4: 20%

This assignment will consist of a case analysis (no more than 1500 words, roughly six pages) in which you will be required to critique one of the two briefed cases on the basis of one of the theoretical perspectives that have been studied and discussed in class. It will be due on Wednesday, 22 March 2017, by 4:30 pm. The assignment must be submitted electronically via cuLearn in advance of this deadline.

5. Final examination: 30%

The final examination will be held during the regular examination period in April 2017. It will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. All material covered in lectures and readings during the winter semester (but not during the fall semester) will be examinable.

6. Attendance and participation in discussion groups: 10%

10% of your final grade in the course will be based upon your regular attendance and participation in discussion group meetings.

Please refrain from submitting written assignments late. A grade reduction of 20% for every 24 hours that the assignment is late will apply. (This includes weekends.) Extensions will be accorded only under extreme circumstances, such as severe illness or death of a family member. You must apply for an extension prior to the due date for the assignment in question. Appropriate documentation must 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.

There will be *no* make-up assignments or “grade-booster” assignments under any circumstances. Failure to complete *all* assignments and exams in the course will result in a failing grade for the course as a whole. Deferrals are granted by the Registrar’s Office.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department and 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 Department and the Dean.

APPEALING GRADES ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Students who have questions about the grade they have received on a written assignment or who wish to challenge that grade must make an appointment with the TA who marked the assignment within two weeks of receiving the grade. They must provide a written summary of the alleged errors in grading. I will not entertain appeals of grades that have not first been discussed with the relevant TA.

COMMUNICATION

The primary means of communication outside of class will be cuLearn. If you have a question that can be answered by way of email, please contact your TA first. Office hours and email addresses for TAs will be posted on cuLearn. If you still feel the need to contact me via email, please note that I make every effort to respond to emails within 48 hours. If you would like to talk to me in person, please stop by my office during office hours (preferably after having emailed me in advance to let me know that you will be doing so).

THE PEER ASSISTED STUDY SESSIONS PROGRAM

This course will be supported by the Peer Assisted Study Sessions (“PASS”) program. The PASS program is a learning-enhancement program designed to organize and improve the ways in which students prepare for class with a series of out-of-class workshops. These workshops are based on peer collaboration and participation, and seek to foster independent learning by reviewing core material as well as integrating transferable study skills. While PASS is a voluntary program, all students are encouraged to attend its workshops. Emma Bell (emmalbell@cmail.carleton.ca) is the PASS Facilitator for this course.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS

1. It is crucially important that you complete assigned readings and attend lectures and discussion group meetings. Students who complete the readings but do not attend lectures and discussion group meetings are highly likely to struggle in this course. The same can be said for those who attend lectures and discussion group meetings but do not complete the readings.
2. I will use a modest number of PowerPoint slides in this course. Slides for each lecture will be posted on cuLearn after the lecture has been delivered. Please do not rely on these slides at the

expense of attending lectures. You should be sure to attend lectures and take extensive notes. The slides are meant to provide you with a basic “road map” for the lectures and to highlight core themes and concepts.

3. Law is an inherently textual discipline. Above all, it is about words and expressions—the way they are crafted, interpreted, resignified, and made to do all manner of different things in practice. This underscores the importance of reading and engaging closely with the assigned texts. Without reading and paying close attention to the assigned texts, you will not develop an appreciation for law and legal reasoning.
4. Lectures will be designed to accommodate class discussion. You should feel entirely free to ask questions during the course of lectures. Please remember, though, that all discussion must be respectful of other members of the class. Under no circumstances will I tolerate comments from a student that are disrespectful of other students or that involve racism, sexism, homophobia, or other forms of discrimination. The same policy applies to all discussion groups.
5. This is an exceptionally large class. As a result, it is obviously important that you not engage in disruptive behaviour during lectures and discussion group meetings. Please be sure to turn off your cell phones and computer games prior to the commencement of lectures and discussion group meetings.
6. If you are having difficulty with the course, please approach your TA. You are also encouraged to approach me during my office hours. The PASS program is another important resource for helping you with this course.
7. Students having difficulty with written assignments should draw upon the many resources that are available on campus to help students succeed. For a guide to these services, please visit the Student Academic and Career Development Services (“SACDS”): <http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/>

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Fall Semester

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| 9 September 2016 | [No assigned readings.] |
| 16 September 2016 | Ch. 1 of <i>Law and Society</i> ; Ch. 1 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 23 September 2016 | Chs. 2 and 3 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 30 September 2016 | Ch. 4 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 7 October 2016 | Ch. 3 of <i>Law and Society</i> |
| 14 October 2016 | Chs. 8 and 9 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 21 October 2016 | Ch. 2 of <i>Law and Society</i> ; Ch. 5 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |

[Due to fall break, no class will be held on 28 October 2016.]

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| 4 November 2016 | Chs. 6 and 7 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
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[No class will be held on 11 November 2016.]

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| 18 November 2016 | Ch. 10 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 25 November 2016 | Ch. 11 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 2 December 2016 | Ch. 5 of <i>Law and Society</i> ; Ch. 12 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |

Winter Semester

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| 6 January 2017 | Ch. 13 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 13 January 2017 | Chs. 14 and 15 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 20 January 2017 | Ch. 6 of <i>Law and Society</i> ; Ch. 16 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 27 January 2017 | Ch. 17 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 3 February 2017 | Ch. 18 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 10 February 2017 | Chs. 19 and 20 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 17 February 2017 | Ch. 21 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |

[Due to winter break, no class will be held on 24 February 2017.]

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| 3 March 2017 | Ch. 8 of <i>Law and Society</i> ; Ch. 22 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 10 March 2017 | Ch. 23 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 17 March 2017 | Ch. 24 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 24 March 2017 | Ch. 25 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 31 March 2017 | Ch. 7 of <i>Law and Society</i> ; Ch. 26 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |
| 7 April 2017 | Ch. 27 of <i>Introduction to Legal Studies</i> |

Please be sure to complete the assigned readings prior to each week's lecture. Without completing the assigned readings in advance, it will be difficult for you to follow lectures and participate meaningfully in discussions.