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://www2.carleton.ca/equity/](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/](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/](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/](http://www2.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or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source.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://www.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://www.carleton.ca/law/student-resources/department-policies/

---

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will advance your knowledge of diverse theoretical approaches to the study of law, and, in so doing, contribute to the shaping of your MA or MRP project. While there are many theoretical texts that explore the juncture of law, the social, and transformation, this course is designed to highlight the rich debates over the meaning of and relationship between the terms themselves. As such, the course is split into three parts: i) what is law?, ii) what is the social?, and iii) what is transformation? The exploration of these questions through an array of thinkers will help you develop thoughtful approaches and robust methodologies in your own projects.

**REQUIRED TEXTS** (Available at: Octopus Books, 116 Third Ave., 613-233-2589)


**EVALUATION**

All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Five due throughout term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Student must sign up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussant</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Student must sign up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Thesis/Book Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Monday 2 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Monday 7 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Monday 14 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly Assignments (25%)**

You are required to submit FIVE two to three page critical reflections on the primary reading throughout the term (double-spaced, with proper references). Submitted assignments must include the following three elements, in sentence form:

1) A description of the author’s central thesis;
2) A description of the author’s supporting points, as well as a reflection on the strength of these points (are they well-supported and if so, how? etc...). Please note that this is not a request for your personal opinion on the piece;
3) A reflection on what the piece says about its respective category (i.e., ‘law’, ‘the social’, or ‘transformation’).

These must be handed in at the start of class so remember to print two copies or keep a secure back up for your own records. Each assignment is worth 5%. You may choose to submit one additional assignment (six) and I will count your five highest marks.

**Presentation (10%)**

On the first day of class you must sign up to present on one of the scheduled primary readings. This presentation should be 20 minutes in length (I will cut you off after 21 minutes) and include (but is not limited to):

1) A brief overview of the author’s argument;
2) A contextual situating of the author’s contribution (i.e., how the chosen selection relates to the longer text, other works by this author, etc...);
3) A reflection on what the piece says about ‘law’, ‘the social’, or ‘transformation’;
4) A critical analysis of the argument that includes insights from recommended and other secondary texts (see ‘Additional Readings’);
5) An in-depth exploration of one central idea or concept from the reading (consider using examples from outside the text to illustrate).

Students who miss or are late to their presentations will see this reflected in their marks.

**Discussant (5%)**

On the first day of class you must sign up to act as a discussant for one seminar. As discussant you will be responsible for arriving to class with:

1) An in-depth understanding of the primary text;
2) Some understanding of critical reflections on the primary text (see 'Additional Readings');
3) A set of 3-4 thoughtful questions for further reflection on the primary text;
4) A commitment to engaging with and an ability to constructively respond to the presentation for that week;
5) A commitment to engaging with and an ability to stimulate group discussion on the text and your questions.

Students who miss or are late to the presentations for which they are intended to act as discussants will see this reflected in their marks.

**MA Thesis OR Book Review (15%)**

Seek out an electronic copy of an MA thesis from the Department of Law and Legal Studies OR a single-author book that has been published between 2012-2015 in your area of interest and write a 1,000 word review of it. If you choose the book review, expect to write it with a view of having it published in an academic journal. The two processes are outlined below:

**i) MA THESIS**

Go to the MacOdrum Library online catalogue and find electronic copies of all of the MA theses successfully defended since 2012. Choose an MA thesis written between 2012-2015 and write a review of it. When submitting to me, include:

- a description of the thesis of the MA, including their methodology;
- some positive observations of the MA;
- some critical observations of the MA (the positive and negative are not necessarily equally weighted – you have to decide);
- an assessment of what the MA contributes to the field;
- an assessment of what audience this MA is best suited for.

My feedback will comment on your: i) grammar/style, ii) tone, and iii) ability to address the elements listed above. This assignment is intended to introduce you to what a complete and defended MA thesis looks like.

**ii) BOOK REVIEW**

You can find new books by looking at new books acquired at MacOdrum Library and/or browsing websites of academic presses. Do not choose an edited collection as they are very time consuming to review. Once you select a book, you should then write to the Book Review Editor of a relevant journal and ask them if they would be interested in publishing your review. Once you get confirmation from the journal, providing that they don’t already have a copy of the book, you should write to the publisher and ask for a review copy. They will send you one free of charge in exchange for the review.

This process may take a few weeks so you should choose your book no later than Friday 21 September so that you will be sure to secure a spot with the journal and a copy of the book in plenty of time to complete your review by the beginning of November. When submitting your review to me ensure you include:

- a description of the book’s argument;
- some positive observations of the book;
- some critical observations of the book (the positive and negative are not necessarily equally weighted – you have to decide);
- an assessment of what the book contributes to the field (including how it relates to other similar titles);
- an assessment of what audience this book is best suited for;
- the name of the journal you are submitting your review to.
My feedback will comment on your: i) grammar/style, ii) tone, iii) ability to speak to the journal audience, and iv) ability to address the elements listed above. This assignment is intended to introduce you to the academic world of publishing and, hopefully, result in you having a small publication on your CV in your first year of your MA.

**DUE: Monday 2 November – no extensions**

**Proposal Presentation (15%)**
This presentation will take place the week before your final essays are due. You will give a five-minute presentation on the outline of your final paper (outline below). Essential parts of your presentation will include telling your audience:

- the thesis and outline of your final paper;
- how you will support your argument (including primary and secondary sources);
- what the counter-argument to your thesis is and how you will defeat it;
- what your paper says about the themes of "law", "the social", and/or “transformation”.

You will be evaluated on your ability to i) adequately attend to the elements set out above, ii) present your thoughts orally to your colleagues, and iii) answer further questions asked of you. Please stick to time. Giving a well-timed, concise, and prepared presentation on your topic is part of the challenge. Due to time constraints, I ask that you not use audio visual aids (i.e., power point) in your presentation, although chalkboard use is fine.

**DUE: Monday 7 December – no extensions**

**Final Paper (30%)**
Your paper must demonstrate your in-depth engagement with one author or approach to law and social transformation that we have examined in the course (or that you have cleared with me by Monday 16 November). As made clear in the outline of your proposal, your engagement will draw on both primary and secondary sources, and reflect on what contribution this approach makes to the study of law and social transformation for an issue relevant to your scholarly interests. This assignment will help to advance your knowledge of one particular theoretical approach to law and social transformation, and, in so doing, contribute to shaping your MA or MRP project. The paper must be approximately 20-25 pages, double-spaced, and properly referenced.

**DUE: Monday 14 December at 12pm in my office (LOEB D496) – no extensions**
GRADING

The following table illustrates the relationship between letter grades, percentages, and levels of achievement relative to the expectations for MA and PhD students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>Exceptional work that is technically flawless and original. Work demonstrates insight, understanding and independent application or extension of course expectations; often of publishable quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>Excellent work that demonstrates a very high level of integration of materials/relevant scholarship. Work demonstrates insight, understanding and independent application or extension of course expectations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>Very good quality work that represents a high level of integration, comprehensiveness and complexity, as well as mastery of relevant techniques/concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Represents a largely satisfactory level of integration, comprehensiveness, and complexity; demonstrates a sound level of analysis with no major weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>Acceptable work that fulfills the minimum expectations of the course. Represents a satisfactory level of integration of key concepts/procedures. However, comprehensiveness or technical skills may be lacking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>Acceptable and somewhat fulfills the course expectations. Work reveals some deficiencies in knowledge, understanding or techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Unacceptable work at the graduate level. Represents an unacceptable level of integration, comprehensiveness and complexity. Mastery of some relevant techniques or concepts lacking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>(Carleton University requirements: “A grade of B- or better must normally be obtained in each course credited towards the master’s degree” and a grade of B- must be obtained in each course credited towards the PhD. Grades below B- may result in the student’s removal from the Program. See <a href="http://calendar.carleton.ca/grad/gradregulations/administrationofthereregulations/#11">http://calendar.carleton.ca/grad/gradregulations/administrationofthereregulations/#11</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Fail. Unsatisfactory performance, even though student completes course requirements including submission of final paper/completion of final exam.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When I grade your assignments I will be marking with the following criteria in mind:

**Style**
Has the author taken care in their formatting, grammar, attention to word count, and appropriate referencing? Where appropriate, have they attempted to infuse their work with creative flourish?

**Structure**
Has the author laid out a clear and effective argument for their reader? In particular did the author begin with a clear introduction and overview of their supporting points, and use signposting throughout? Is it a convincing argument overall?

**Content**
Has the author understood the material and conveyed it effectively to their reader? Have they supported their interpretations with page references and other academic sources?

**Research**
Has the author demonstrated a thoughtful and meticulous approach to their research? Have they been intellectually honest about their sources by seeking out primary material and bolstering their interpretation with appropriate secondary sources?

**Critical Analysis**
Has the author been able to understand the material, communicate about it clearly, and use their critical reading and writing skills to analyze the material? A demonstrated depth of critical analysis will be key for achieving high marks on essays.

**REFERENCING**

The Law Department recommends that you follow the Legal Style set out here:


However, if you prefer another referencing style, you may use it provided that you are consistent throughout and the style is academically recognized (e.g. Harvard, MLA, Chicago). If you are unsure about the proper format of a particular referencing style, please consult a referencing style guide from the library.

The Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Services provide students and faculty assistance with the teaching and learning of academic writing. Please contact them in advance and make use of their services:

[http://www.carleton.ca/wts/](http://www.carleton.ca/wts/)

**Tips for avoiding plagiarism:**

- Give yourself enough time to work on your assignment, so you are not tempted to copy text from other sources.
- Take notes carefully so that you include specific sources and page numbers. Be sure to clearly identify which ideas are your own and which come from your sources.
- Reference as you write, rather than leaving all the referencing to the end. Even if you just use shorthand as you write (i.e. note the author’s last name and page number), you can then go back
and do the formatting later. But it is always better to reference as you go – it will save you time in the long run and you are less likely to forget something.

- Consult a referencing guide! If you are unsure about referencing format or procedure, check a referencing style guide. There are plenty available in the library and online.

For more help see: [http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/citing-your-sources](http://www.library.carleton.ca/help/citing-your-sources)

Remember: Using another person’s work without acknowledgment, or using work in a way that may mislead or deceive your reader is plagiarism. It does not matter whether you deliberately intended to deceive or not; it still counts as plagiarism and is subject to the university’s policies and penalties on academic misconduct. Plagiarism is not only dishonest, but it undermines the integrity of academic scholarship and is not acceptable.

ALL INSTANCES OF PLAGIARISM WILL BE REPORTED DIRECTLY TO THE DEAN.
## SCHEDULE

### LAWS 5000 Course Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Seminar</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 September</td>
<td>Seminar One</td>
<td>Law, the Social, and Transformation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PART I: WHAT IS LAW?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 September</td>
<td>Seminar Two</td>
<td>General Theory of Law and Marxism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(resched from 14 Sept)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 September</td>
<td>Seminar Three</td>
<td>Law's Normative Predilections?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>Seminar Four</td>
<td>Norms and Decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 October</td>
<td>Seminar Five</td>
<td>Law, Regulation, Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PART II: WHAT IS THE SOCIAL?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 October</td>
<td>Seminar Six</td>
<td>Contaminating the Political</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(resched from 12 Oct)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 October</td>
<td>Seminar Seven</td>
<td>Reassembling the Social?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 October</td>
<td>Seminar Eight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 November</td>
<td>Seminar Nine</td>
<td>Law as Speech Acts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 November</td>
<td>Seminar Ten</td>
<td>Judgment and Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 November</td>
<td></td>
<td>Violence &amp; Law as Symbolic Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PART III: WHAT IS TRANSFORMATION?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 November</td>
<td>Seminar Eleven</td>
<td>Reading It In, or the Potential of Recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 November</td>
<td>Seminar Twelve</td>
<td>The (Disciplinary) Power of Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 December</td>
<td>Seminar Thirteen</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEMINAR ONE
Law, the Social, and Transformation
(4 September)

SEMINAR CANCELLED

Please see email sent to all registered students on Friday 21 August with important information.

PART I: WHAT IS LAW?

SEMINAR TWO
General Theory of Law and Marxism
(Thursday 17 September)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SEMINAR IS RESCHEDULED FROM OUR REGULAR MONDAY CLASS.


Available at: <www.marxists.org/archive/pashukanis/1924/law/>.

Additional Readings:


SEMINAR THREE
Law’s Normative Predilections?
(21 September)

Fuller, Lon (1958) “Positivism and the Ideal of Fidelity to Law – A Reply to Professor Hart”, Harvard Law


Additional Readings:


SEMINAR FOUR
Norms and Decisions
(28 September)


Additional Readings:


SEMINAR FIVE
Law, Regulation, Governance
(5 October)


Additional Readings:


PART II: WHAT IS THE SOCIAL?

SEMINAR SIX
Contaminating the Political
(Thursday 15 October)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SEMINAR IS RESCHEDULED FROM OUR REGULAR MONDAY CLASS.


Additional Readings:


SEMINAR SEVEN
Reassembling the Social?
(19 October)


Additional Readings:


Cloatre, Emilie and Nick Wright (2013) "A Socio-legal Analysis of an Actor-World: The Case of Carbon


**READING WEEK**

*No seminar*  
*(26 October)*

**SEMINAR EIGHT**  
*Law as Speech Acts*  
*(2 November)*

**MA THESIS/BOOK REVIEW DUE**


Additional Readings:


**PART III: WHAT IS TRANSFORMATION?**

**SEMINAR NINE**  
*Judgment and Reform*  
*(9 November)*

Additional Readings:


SEMINAR TEN
Violence & Law as Symbolic Other
(16 November)


Additional Readings:


SEMINAR ELEVEN
Reading It In, or the Potential of Recognition
(23 November)


Additional Readings:


**SEMINAR TWELVE**  
*The (Disciplinary) Power of Rights*  
(30 November)


**Additional Readings:**


**SEMINAR THIRTEEN**  
*Presentations*  
(7 December)

PRESENTATIONS IN CLASS

**FINAL PAPERS DUE: MONDAY 14 DECEMBER**  
No Extensions