

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 6001 A – Proseminar in Legal Studies
TERM:	Fall 2024/Winter 2025
CLASS:	Day & Time: Wednesdays, 2:35-5:25pm Room: Please check Carleton Central for class schedule
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Megan Gaucher
CONTACT:	Office: D496 Office Hrs: By Appointment (Zoom) Email: megangaucher@cunet.carleton.ca

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

A seminar which meets every two weeks throughout the academic year. Based on presentations of papers and works in progress by faculty, students and invited guests, as well as assigned readings on issues that deal with current research in legal studies.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to provide students with beneficial information to navigate the PhD program in Law and Legal Studies, to develop the skills necessary for an academic (or non-academic) career, and to demystify what Jessica Calarco terms “the hidden curriculum” of academia. Throughout the term, we will explore the professional dimensions and challenges of being a socio-legal scholar and will untangle current debates around “good” scholarship/academic engagement through an examination of topics ranging from creating an intellectual identity, research grant writing, managing student-supervisor relationships, writing/revision, the art of offering (and receiving) critique, research design, research presentation, and the ethics of inquiry.¹

¹ In constructing this syllabus, I drew inspiration from previous versions of LAWS 6001 taught by Doris Buss and Dale Spencer. I thank them both for the tremendous amount of work and care they put into developing this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

These two texts will be revisited throughout the term. If possible, I encourage you to buy physical copies, however, they are also available both as physical copies and as e-books on the Carleton library website.

Berdahl, L., & Malloy, J. (2018) *Work Your Career: Get What You Want From Your Social Sciences or Humanities PhD*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Germano, William. (2021) *On Revision: The Only Writing that Counts*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Also required:

Department of Law and Legal Studies' Graduate Student Handbook
(<https://carleton.ca/law/graduate-handbook/>)

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS/RESOURCES

These texts are not required (I will provide access to the sections we will be reading/discussing) but they are hopefully texts/resources that you will revisit throughout your academic career (I still do).

Calarco, Jessica M. (2020) *A Field Guide to Grad School: Uncovering the Hidden Curriculum*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Reyes, Victoria. (2022) *Academic Outsider: Stories of Exclusion and Hope*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Boyd, Michelle. (2022) *Becoming the Writer You Already Are*. New York: Sage Publications.

Dr. Raul Pacheco-Vega's Blog: <http://www.raulpacheco.org/blog/>

Academic Aunties Podcast: <https://www.academicaunties.com/episodes/>

All other articles and materials can be found either on Brightspace, as an eBook on the library website, or online (see "Course Schedule" for details).

EVALUATION

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.

Type of Assignment	Due Date
Presence/Participation	See Below
SSHRC or OGS Program of Work	September 18 th
Revision Assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 30th • November 13th and 27th • December 15th
Teaching Philosophy Assignment	January 22 nd
TCPS Core 2 Module	January 31 st
Research Presentation	April 2 nd

All written assignments are to be uploaded in the appropriate Brightspace drop-box.

1. **Presence and Participation** – For this seminar, participation will take a few different forms including, but not limited to class discussion.

- Two Meetings with the Professor

We will schedule two one-on-one meetings (one in the fall term and one in the winter term). In terms of substance, you are expected to lead the discussion based on whatever is important to you at that point in the course. We can have as many additional meetings as you need, but the objective here is for us to touch base at least twice once a term.

- Attend Three Research Talks

There will be a lot of exciting opportunities to engage with other researchers, faculty, graduate students, etc. in the department throughout the year. Please attend (at least) three of these events (e.g. public lectures, workshops, work-in-progress series, etc.) including at least two hosted by the Department of Law and Legal Studies. Write up a short reflection (one paragraph) on each of them and upload it on Brightspace no later than a week after the event.

2. **SSHRC or OGS Program of Work** – This assignment is based on two funding sources available to graduate students in Law and Legal Studies. Domestic PhD students will develop and submit their SSHRC proposal and international students will develop an OGS program of work. SSHRC guidelines can be found here: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/doctoral/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx#prop> (see “Research Proposal”). OGS guidelines can be found here: <https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/ogs/>.

3. **Revision Assignment** – For this assignment, you will share (and review) an essay on a subject related to your research area. This does not have to be a brand-new piece of writing; rather, it should be something you wrote for a previous/current course, a paper you

have presented at a conference, or something from your MA thesis/MRE – potentially something you want to submit for publication. The aim of this assignment is to practice providing constructive feedback on someone else’s paper and then make a revision plan based on the feedback you receive on your paper. Papers must be a **minimum of 6000 words and a maximum of 8000 words** and cannot be something that you’ve already published.

In addition to putting together a draft manuscript, there will be three parts to this assignment:

- You will provide a brief (5 minutes max) informal presentation about a favorite academic journal article of yours. It can be something related to your own research, or it can just be an article that you read at some point, and it stuck with you for whatever reason. In this presentation, you will outline 1) the main argument of the article; 2) the author(s)’ theoretical framework/methodology; 3) the “so what” of this article; and 4) what you personally like about this article (e.g., structure, findings, writing style, etc.). **(Week 5)**
- We will be exchanging your draft manuscripts **(Week 6)** and each of you will provide feedback on a classmate’s paper **(Week 7)**. I will also be reviewing all the papers and providing feedback.
- You will engage with these revisions and submit a “Letter to the Editor” that outlines your revision plan. **(Before December 15th)**

Further information/guidelines will be provided on Brightspace and in seminar.

4. **Teaching Philosophy Assignment** - Further information/guidelines will be provided on Brightspace and in seminar during the Winter Term.
5. **Research Presentation** – Further information/guidelines will be provided on Brightspace and in seminar during the Winter Term

This course is a pass/fail course. Students must complete all assignments at a satisfactory level in order to pass. Satisfactory, for assignments 2, 3, 4 and 5, means at least an “A-” grade must be achieved on this. If you do not meet the minimum requirement, you will be required to redo the assignment. In addition, if a student misses more than three classes without explanation, they will fail the course.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

This course has assignment deadlines for two reasons: (1) fairness to everyone, and (2) we want to be able to stay on track. That being said, I recognize that meeting all deadlines might not be possible for everyone and as such, some flexibility is required.

If you are dealing with circumstances (medical or otherwise) that prevent you from dedicating the usual amount of time to this class and you require an extension on any of the assignments,

please let me know. This does not mean you have to divulge all personal information – you can share what you’re comfortable with. For some accommodation requests however, it might be helpful if I have a sense of how (and for how long) your ability to participate, read, or write will be affected. The sooner I know that we need to figure out a reasonably adjusted game plan that enables you to complete all course requirements, the better.

For longer extensions and requests to modify the assignment or evaluation structure due to medical or other urgent issues, I might ask you to complete the form at the following link and submit it to the instructor prior to the assignment due date:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-consideration-coursework-form/>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY²

As a graduate student, you are developing your skills and identity as a scholar. Maintaining high standards of academic integrity is central to this process: be the kind of scholar that you would like to read and work with. A central component of good scholarly practice is to show how you have been relying on the work of researchers who came before you. This means that in discussions we acknowledge our influences and in our written work, we quote and cite others to show our intellectual debts and relationships. If we use specific terms or phrases (let alone sentences) from other authors, the use of quotation marks is essential. Good quoting and citing practices help to separate your voice from that of others and highlight your contributions. In this class you can use any citation style that works for you as long as you give the pinpoint reference (precise page number or page range) if appropriate. Please consult the Carleton University Library for quick guides (<https://library.carleton.ca/guides/help/citing-your-sources>) on citation styles.

Research is a collaborative effort, but there are rules about what forms of collaboration require to include someone else as a co-author. All your assignments in this course are expected to have you as the sole author (unless you have asked for and received written permission for another format). This means, among other things:

- You may ask others to look over your work for spelling, grammar, and clarity.
- You may discuss your research projects with anyone (in the class and beyond).
- Any distinctive ideas that others have contributed need to be acknowledged (example footnotes: “Jeanne Doe, personal communication” or “I’m grateful to Jeanne Doe for suggesting this connection.”)
- You may not rely on or incorporate text generated by AI (such as ChatGPT) unless you have (1) asked and received permission for a specific use in writing, and (2) clearly mark the extent of the text that has been generated by AI (similar to citing and quoting human authors).

² In the spirit of academic integrity, this section was carefully crafted by Christiane Wilke (2023).

Academic integrity violations will be taken seriously because they undermine the trust and respect we need to place in each other. At the same time, I would like to encourage you to treat the official academic integrity rules as a minimum standard and to aim for ethical, respectful, and just research and citational practices.

SCHEDULE

See “LAWS 6001 – Course Schedule” on Brightspace for course readings, guest speakers, seminar schedule, etc.

University and Departmental Policies

DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Please review the following webpage to ensure that your practices meet our Department’s expectations, particularly regarding standard departmental protocols and academic integrity requirements: <https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources/>.

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: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

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 about the accommodation policy, visit the [Equity and Inclusive Communities \(EIC\)](#) website.

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, please go to: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>

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. You can find the Paul Menton Centre online at: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

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).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. Read more here: <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>.