

Course Outline

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<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>LAWS 1001E – Introduction to Legal Studies 1</b>
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>Winter 2020</b>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>LECTURES:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time: Wednesdays 11:35am to 1:25pm</b> <b>Room: Please check Carleton Central for current room location</b>
<b>TUTORIALS:</b>	<b>Day &amp; Time: Check your course timetable on Carleton Central to confirm the time and location of the tutorial session in which you are registered)</b> <b>Room:</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	<b>Dr. Vincent Kazmierski</b>
<b>CONTACT:</b>	<b>Office: Loeb C473</b> <b>Office Hrs: Fridays 1:30-2:30pm (or by appointment)</b> <b>Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 8069</b> <b>Email: vincent.kazmierski@carleton.ca</b>

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

Introduction to legal studies: concepts, sources, nature and functions of law; historical, cultural and constitutional foundations of Canadian legal system; common and civil law traditions; statutory interpretation; precedent; legal institutions; frameworks for analyzing formal and informal conceptions of law and its role in society.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the field of Canadian legal studies. As such, it has two main objectives. A first objective is to provide a basic knowledge of the formal foundations of law and the legal system in Canada. Students will learn about the sources of formal law in Canada, the structure and function of legal institutions, and the process of law-making process. As well, students will be introduced to important areas of substantive law (such as constitutional law and human rights law). A second objective of the course is to provide students with the tools to begin to think critically about the law and our legal system. Students will be introduced to various theoretical perspectives concerning what law is, how law

is “made”, how we experience law, the role of law in shaping relationships between individuals and groups as well as relations between the state and society. The ways in which the law may be manipulated to serve particular societal interests will also be considered. Ultimately, students will consider the role that law plays in either advancing or inhibiting social justice and social change.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify and explain several different theoretical frameworks that can be used to examine the different forms and roles of law within Canadian society, including both formal and informal conceptions of “law”
- Recognize, explain and critically evaluate the formal process of legal rule-making, including the legislative process and judicial decision making
- Recognize, explain and critically evaluate a cross-section of the formal legal rules and frameworks that directly affect the lives of Canadians
- Recognize and critically evaluate the ways in which both formal and informal “law” may be used to affect the distribution of power in society and recognize different ways of assessing the relationship between law and justice and between law and social change

### **HOW WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Learning is a dynamic enterprise that requires active participation of both the instructor and the student. Thus, your ability to achieve the learning objectives for this course will depend on both of us to work towards that goal. To that end, I have drafted the following outline of our respective responsibilities in this course:

To give you the best opportunity to fulfill the learning objectives of this course, **I WILL MAKE MY BEST EFFORT TO:**

- Organize the course to facilitate the achievement of the learning objectives
- Engage in the necessary research and preparation to craft informative and engaging lectures/seminars and tutorials using relevant pedagogical strategies and appropriate substantive content;
- Foster a classroom environment that supports interaction and active learning in a respectful and tolerant setting;
- Maintain regular office hours (or reasonable appointments) for those students who wish to meet with me in person;
- Respond to electronic communication in a timely manner (usually within one business day – this means that I don’t typically respond to emails on weekends)
- Prepare evaluations (tests, assignments, presentations etc.) that fairly assess your ability to engage with the content of the course and your developing skills as a university student;

- Ensure your assignments are marked in a timely manner (usually within two weeks if possible) and that you receive meaningful feedback where appropriate; and
- Seek appropriate feedback about the course and its content and reflect and act upon this feedback to improve the course when appropriate.

To give you the best opportunity to fulfill the learning objectives of this course, **YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR BEST EFFORT TO:**

- Complete assigned readings or other preparation tasks before class whenever possible;
- Attend class regularly and minimize distractions in class (such as watching youtube videos or updating social media) in order to maximize your ability to interact and engage with the material, fellow students and the instructor;
- Ensure that your interactions with other students and the instructor are respectful and tolerant of opposing views, different ways of learning or participating;
- Ask questions (in person, or electronically) when you are having difficulty understanding the material being studied or if you are uncertain if you have the skills required to complete an assignment or other evaluation;
- Manage your schedule so as to ensure you have adequate time to prepare for class and complete assignments in a manner that reflects your best work (this includes time for research, writing, reviewing and editing written submissions and for practicing oral submissions);
- Ensure that all of the work that you submit for evaluation is your own work and that you provide proper attribution (footnotes etc.) to identify where you have appropriately relied upon the work of others to support your own ideas or arguments;
- Read and carefully consider the evaluation and feedback provided on your assignments; and
- Take responsibility for your own education by taking your courses seriously and devoting the time and energy required to succeed.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

### **Texts Available at the Carleton University Bookstore**

1. B. Wright, Vincent Kazmierski, Betina Kuzmarov and Rebecca Bromwich, *Looking at Law: Canada's Legal System*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: Lexis-Nexis, 2019). ISBN: 978-0-43349-892-6
2. Stephen Tasson, Rebecca Bromwich, Jane Dickson, Vincent Kazmierski, Bettina Appel Kuzmarov, Sébastien Malette, Umut Öszu (eds.), *Introduction to Legal Studies: Foundations and Rights Protection (vol.1)* Canadian Legal Studies Series (Concord: Captus Press, 2019); ISBN 978-1- 55322-375-7.

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU BUY THE CORRECT EDITION OF THE ABOVE TEXTS AS THE NEW EDITIONS HAVE SIGNIFICANT CONTENT CHANGES COMPARED TO OLDER EDITIONS**

### **EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES**

*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.*

There are four formal evaluation components in this course –two assignments, one multiple choice exam, and attendance/participation in tutorials.

**20% - Assignment 1**      **due Feb. 11, 2020 at noon – submitted through cuLearn**  
Details about the assignment will be posted on cuLearn

**25% - Assignment 2**      **due Mar. 24, 2020 at noon– submitted through cuLearn**  
Details about the assignment will be posted on cuLearn.

**40% - Final Exam**      **The final exam will take place during the formal examination period.**  
The exam will consist of multiple choice questions only.

**15% - Tutorial Attendance and Participation**  
**Tutorials are held every week.** Students are required to attend all tutorials offered. The mark awarded assesses both attendance and participation in the tutorial.

**Note: There will be no make-up assignments or “grade-booster” assignments in this course.** Deferrals will not be granted unless all assignments have been handed in.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Late assignments will be penalized five percent for each day submitted after the due date (including week-end days).

Students can request an extension on Assignments for serious illness or family and personal emergencies. They will be required to provide official supporting documentation. Students requesting an extension **MUST** contact the course Instructor prior to the assignment deadline.

Extensions will **NOT** be granted for computer problems of any kind. I strongly encourage you to back up your work as you go along: email a draft to yourself whenever you finish a segment of work on it or copy it to a USB thumb-drive or an external hard drive.

A cold or the flu is not a sufficient reason for an extension.  
Competing workloads in other courses is not a sufficient reason for an extension. Work schedule or family schedule conflicts are not sufficient reasons for an extension.

### **APPEALING GRADES ON ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students who have questions about the grade they receive on an assignment or who wish to challenge the grade must first contact the T.A. who marked the assignment within one week of receiving the marked assignment. Students must provide their T.A. with a written summary of the specific elements of the marking they wish to question or challenge. The instructor will not entertain appeals of grades that have not been discussed first with the T.A.

### **LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

A list of lecture topics and assigned readings will be posted on cuLearn at the beginning of the semester. I highly recommend that students complete the assigned readings prior to each week's lecture. My lectures will identify important issues raised in the readings, but will not simply repeat material in the readings. In addition, I introduce material not covered by the readings in my lectures. Students are encouraged to take detailed notes during lectures.

### **TUTORIALS**

Attendance at tutorials is MANDATORY. In fact, attendance and participation in tutorials is assigned marks in this course (see above). Tutorials will be used to teach skills necessary for effectively completing the assignments as well as to deal with the substance of the course. Each tutorial group will consist of about 30 students and will be led by a designated Teaching Assistant (T.A.). Assignments will be marked by the T.A. in charge of the student's designated tutorial. Office hours and email addresses for T.A.s will be posted on cuLearn.

### **CULEARN:**

cuLearn will be the primary method of electronic communication with students outside of class. It will be used to post marks, to post announcements, to host email communications and electronic discussion boards. Students should make sure that they sign-on to cuLearn in the first week of classes and should check the cuLearn page for this course on a weekly basis.

### **A FEW ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS:**

- Lectures in this course are designed to complement the texts, not just repeat the same material. As such, it is important to both attend lectures and complete the readings. Students who only complete the readings, but do not attend lectures and tutorials will find it very difficult to do well in this course. Material covered in lectures will be tested in the exams.
- Lectures will be designed to accommodate questions and discussion in class. Feel free to ask questions during the course of lectures. Please remember, however, that

questions, comments and discussion in class must remain respectful of the other members of the class.

- This class has close to 300 students in it. As a result, it is very important that students do not engage in disruptive behaviour during lectures. Please refrain from engaging with social media, computer games or videos during the lecture.
- Students who keep informed of what's happening in the news will get more out of the content discussed in lectures and readings. The material covered in Laws 1000 will be reflected on a weekly basis in the news.
- If you are having trouble understanding the material in the course, speak to your T.A. or the instructor sooner rather than later. We are here to help you learn.
- Another important resource for helping you understand the course is our PASS facilitator. The PASS facilitator is an upper year student who has already taken the course and can help you with strategies to do well in the course. The facilitator's contact information will be posted on Web-CT.
- Students having difficulty with writing assignments should check-out the many resources available on campus to help students succeed. For a guide to these services check out the Center for Student Academic Support (CSAS) website at:  
<http://carleton.ca/csas/>

Services provided through CSAS include: Writing Services (Library 4<sup>th</sup> Floor); The Learning Commons (Library 4<sup>th</sup> Floor); and Peer Assisted Subject Coaching.

**Please let me know if you have any questions about this course outline. See you in class!**

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## **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:** Please contact 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:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

**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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact The Paul Menton Centre (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 as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC Website for their deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

<https://carleton.ca/pmc/students/accommodations/>

## **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/>

## **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 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/sexual-violence-support/>

## **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.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/>

## **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/>