

Course Outline

COURSE: LAWS 3001A: Women and the Legal Process

TERM: Winter 2020

PREREQUISITES: 1.0 Credit at the LAWS 2000 level

CLASS: **Day & Time:** Thursdays 11:35am - 2:25pm
 Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Megan Gaucher (She/Her)

CONTACT: **Office:** Room D496 Loeb Building
 Office Hrs: Thursdays 3:00pm - 4:00pm OR By Appointment (In-person, Skype or FaceTime)
 Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 4207
 Email: Megan.Gaucher@carleton.ca

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

How the legal process has affected the status of women. Areas of concentration within the Canadian context include the criminal law, citizenship and immigration, education, employment, and welfare and social services.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to key issues, theories and debates concerning gender, feminism and the law, primarily in Canada. Approaching law as both a site of regulation and constraint, as well as a tool for feminist practice, the course examines topics ranging from policing, incarceration, employment and immigration, to questions of consent, sexuality and obscenity.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All articles, cases and other materials can be found either on cuLearn, as an eBook at the library 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	Weighting	Due Date
Attendance/Participation	15%	N/A
Op-Ed Assignment	20%	February 6 th
Research Paper Proposal Workshop	10%	March 5 th
Research Paper	25%	April 3 rd
Take-Home Exam	30%	April 16 th

Attendance/Participation (15%)

I encourage my students to take ownership of their learning and one way to accomplish this is through effective participation. This means attending as many classes as possible, staying on top of assigned readings, and giving some thought to the readings and themes of the course in relation to your everyday lives.

In this course, students can earn participation marks in three ways: attending class regularly (max. 5 marks), contributing to online discussion forums (max. 5 marks), and participating in-class (max. 5 marks).

In the right-hand column of the “Course Schedule” are discussion questions meant to stimulate your thinking about the materials, course themes, and current developments. You can post a response to these questions on the cuLearn class discussion forum for a mark.

Op-Ed Assignment (20%)

Newspapers regularly publish opinion pieces that comment on topical domestic and international issues, crises, or problems. Op-eds are one way for citizens to contribute directly to debates in the media by publishing an informed opinion piece. It is a short essay that makes and supports one primary argument. It also addresses or refutes counterpoints to this argument. Before you begin working on this assignment, I recommend looking at the examples of op-eds posted on cuLearn.

For this assignment, you will write a 700 – 800 word op-ed (single spaced) on one specific issue relating to gender and the law in Canada.

The op-ed must be structured as follows:

- Identify one very specific issue relating to gender and the law in Canada
- Specify the forces that have generated the problem or issue
- Propose a solution and justification for that solution

No referencing is required for this assignment, but your arguments should reflect the course materials as necessary. Further information will be provided both in-class and on cuLearn. This assignment must be uploaded on cuLearn by **February 6th** (see LAWS 3001 Op-ed Assignment Dropbox on cuLearn).

You are writing this reflection for a public audience. You can assume some reader knowledge but remember that your readers are not specialists. This means you should define technical terms or discuss complex concepts. Also remember that your readers are short on time and attention span. Make your points clearly and make an effort to

keep your audience interested.

Research Paper Proposal/Workshop (10%)

Part of class on **March 5th** will be dedicated to giving you some time to discuss your research paper with your classmates. For this workshop, you are required to bring in a 3-5 page proposal (double spaced) outlining your chosen topic, research question/thesis statement, overview of your main arguments, and an annotated bibliography that includes a minimum of five academic sources. Both the completion of this proposal and your participation in the workshop will be assessed for this part of your grade. Further information will be provided in-class and on cuLearn.

Research Paper (25%)

You are required to submit an 8-10 page paper (double spaced) on a topic of your choosing within the realm of the course. Further information will be provided in-class and on cuLearn. This assignment must be uploaded on cuLearn by April 3rd (see LAWS 3001 Research Paper Dropbox on cuLearn).

Late Assignments/Accommodations

I will be imposing a late penalty of 2% points per day, including weekends, with a maximum penalty of two weeks late (28%) for **the op-ed assignment and the research paper assignment (not the proposal)**. After two weeks, I will no longer accept this assignment unless we have worked out an extension. Extensions must be arranged with me before the assignment deadline. A late assignment may be emailed to me if you cannot get in to the university to hand it in right away. In this case, the late penalty will stop on the date of your electronic submission; however, you must still submit a hard copy to me before your assignment will be marked. The email version will simply confirm the date you completed the assignment. The hard copy that you submit must be the same as the copy you emailed. In other words, you cannot take advantage of this time lag to continue working on the assignment. To do so will be considered academic dishonesty.

Take-Home Exam (30%)

The final exam will cover all course material, including lecture material and readings, from the entire semester. More information on this exam will be provided in-class closer to the end of semester.

SCHEDULE

Please see the “LAWS 3001A – Course Schedule” on cuLearn.

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 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/>

****Bonus:** If you have read through this entire syllabus and email me a meme by January 16th that best describes your feelings about break being over and winter semester starting up, you will receive a bonus 3% on your final research paper.**